



September 3, 2019

Stamford Board of Representatives  
Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard,  
4th Floor, Stamford

Dear Stamford Representatives,

Headquartered here in Stamford, CT the American Pet Products Association (APPA) is the leading trade association in the pet industry made up of more than 1,300 pet product manufacturers, their representatives, importers and livestock suppliers. We employ 22 people in Stamford, many who reside in Stamford and throughout Connecticut. Our membership consists of a diverse group representing both large corporations and growing business enterprises worldwide. Our mission is to promote responsible pet care and advance the pet products industry. As such, we write to the Board of Representatives to respectfully oppose the proposed ordinance banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

Connecticut is a high cost state in which to do business, making it difficult for businesses across the state to compete and grow. According to a March 2019 [Connecticut Mirror article](#), Connecticut is the only New England state which has yet to recover jobs lost during the recession nine years ago. According to our biennial National Pet Owners Survey, roughly 4% of all dogs brought into homes each year come from pet stores. A ban on the sale of dogs in pet stores here in Connecticut would have a minimal effect on breeders, but it will force a small local business to close and would cause your constituents to lose their jobs. Statewide and local legislative efforts like this only serve to limit the job opportunities, contributing to the lack of job growth, in Connecticut while limiting consumer and pet choice.

It is important to note that pet stores are already heavily regulated at the state level. A local ordinance such as this treats a state regulated business differently than similar entities based on where they are located which creates opposing requirements to operate.

We are also concerned for pet owners across the state who would be impacted by this ordinance. Pet owners in Connecticut who purchase a dog from a pet store have some of the strongest warranty protections in the country. Other sources for pets are not required to meet the strict standards which pet stores are required to follow. This ordinance would punish the most highly regulated source for pets in the state while potentially driving pet owners to unregulated sources for pets.

Responsible pet ownership and pet care begins with choosing the right pet for your family. Pet stores provide access to pets and are a resource and partner in pet care. By removing them from the community, you are forcing people to turn to unregulated sources or sources which may not have the



right breed for their family or force them to go out of their way to find a new pet. No family should be denied the ability to experience the benefits of the human animal bond because of uninformed public policy decisions.

We strongly encourage Stamford to oppose the proposed pet sale ban ordinance to protect pet choice and jobs in Stamford. Stamford should be a partner in animal care and work with the state to enforce the strict standards already in place. We thank you for consideration of our views.

Yours truly,

*Julia Fidenzio-Alicea*

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