

Fanciers' Association  
San Diego Pet Seller Ban  
UPDATE - Hearing on July 9,2013  
SUCCESS, but not victory!!!  
Forwarding is encouraged  
Joan Miller, CFA Legislative Information Liaison

We convinced the San Diego council members that the proposed "Pet Shop sales ban" was too broad and would be extremely detrimental to responsible small or moderate home-breeders of cats, dogs and rabbits. At yesterday's hearing, after 4 hours of testimony, a motion was made by Council Member Lori Zapf, the lead proponent of the pet store ban, and the ordinance, as amended, was passed unanimously.

The language in the "exemption" section that included reference to breeders is to be removed. The proposed ordinance had exempted breeders only if they bred and sold no more than 3 litters (all or part of) or sold no more than 20 offspring in a twelve month period. This arbitrary threshold would have meant a person who sold one kitten from each of 4 litters would be in violation, and this would be a criminal offense.

There is only one pet store left in San Diego that sells puppies. The ordinance was based on a report provided over a year ago by the Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS). This Massachusetts based group is attempting to ban all pet stores from selling dogs or other animals nationwide, claiming that all dogs sold in pet stores come from "puppy mills". So far they have succeeded in 34 cities.

The lead testimony in support came from Dr. Gary Weitzman, new President of San Diego Humane Society. Also in support was Bryan Pease with the APRL (Animal Protection & Rescue League), Dale Bartlett, an HSUS representative, Sydney Cicourel with CAPS (Companion Animal Protection Society) and the San Diego Animal Defense Team (animal activists who set up protests at pet stores and organize grass roots support for the San Diego ordinance) and about 50 others. Several testified that they oppose ALL sales of dogs and cats by anyone other than shelters/rescue groups.

Dr. Kay Henderson, Margaret Williamson and I prepared a Power Point to express opposition to the entire ordinance and especially the unintended consequences for responsible dog and cat breeders. All council members were provided with a copy. Kay discussed the problems with cutting off good sources of dogs resulting in the public going to less desirable sources, fair trade issues and that the shelter/rescues have become big business. She stressed that rescue groups bring in dogs from other countries that have already presented rabies risks. I talked about how detrimental the ordinance would be to cat breeders when pedigreed cats are so rare and the fact that there are few large scale breeders of cats worldwide. Margaret discussed issues such as the importing of dogs from Mexico, Rumania, etc. and that it would give a monopoly to the shelter and rescue groups.

You can view all of the testimony. Move to the center point where our issue begins.  
[http://granicus.sandiego.gov/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=3&clip\\_id=5847](http://granicus.sandiego.gov/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=5847)

I was grateful to the cat fanciers, dog fanciers, and others who graciously contributed their one minute slots to us in order to give the 15 minutes allowed for our PowerPoint presentation. Also to those who contacted their council members and worked behind the scenes talking with staff members. Thanks to AKC, NAIA and others who sent excellent letters. There were several people who spoke well and made good points at the hearing that reinforced our views, including a bird fancier and also a pet store owner who takes in stray cats and places them through his store to avoid taking them to San Diego Animal Services where they will often be euthanized. In response, there was some talk among council members about rewriting another part of the ordinance that prohibits any selling of an animal not "bred and reared on the premises". When Dr.

Weitzman promised the store owner could bring them to the SD Humane Society for adoption this may have satisfied the Council. However, there will be a second hearing of the full council, with most likely no further language changes.

More details to come later..... Watch for an Alert on the CFA Southwest list and/or the CFA E-Newsletter and be ready to show up at a hearing with little notice, if necessary..

We suggest emails to the Council Members thanking them for removing the breeder prohibition language; and continue to urge them to drop the entire ordinance.

Joan Miller  
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