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PIJAC Applauds Ruling Granting a Temporary Restraining Order on Cook County Pet Shop Ban

Washington, DC – In a federal court ruling handed down today, the Cook County, IL, pet sale ordinance scheduled to take effect October 1 has been delayed pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by several of the affected store owners. As a result of this Temporary Restraining Order, Cook County pet retailers can continue to sell dogs, cats and rabbits until the suit has been decided.

“We applaud the approval of this Temporary Restraining Order and preliminary injunction on the ban on pet shops,” says Ed Sayres, President and CEO of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC). “This is a positive outcome for responsible local retailers whose businesses would have been jeopardized by a law that was rushed through instead of receiving the thoughtful consideration it deserves. This TRO, coming so closely on the heels of Arlington Heights’ decision to opt out of the county ordinance, should make it clear that Cook County went too far in its haste to “send a message” to out-of-state breeders.

“These bans limit consumer choice, making it more difficult for people to find the right pet for their families. Restricting the sales of commercially bred dogs and cats at pet stores does not guarantee safety for animals nor protects consumers. In fact, it would remove the protection provided by the pet warranty law passed by the state just last year that *only* applies to pets purchased from pet stores. We will be watching the outcome of this case closely, and we hope that those who would propose similar bans elsewhere will be watching, as well,” says Sayres.

For more information on this legislation, contact Mike Bober, Executive Vice President, at 202-452-1525 x1060 or mbober@pijac.org.

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The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is comprised of members of the pet industry, nationwide, including pet food and pet supply manufacturers, veterinarians, retailers, pet day care and boarding facilities and groomers among others. PIJAC has supported pro-pet legislation and regulations for forty years. With over \$183 million donated in the form of food and general supplies, as well as direct monetary aid, the pet industry and has helped more than 7.5 million homeless and shelter pets in the last two decades. More information can be found at www.pijac.org.