FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RENOUINED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST JOINS PIJAC STAFF

Washington, D.C. – The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is pleased to announce that distinguished scientist Scott Hardin will be joining PIJAC as a consultant effective July 1, 2012. “Scott Hardin’s extensive experience with exotic and invasive species is a tremendous asset to PIJAC,” stated President and CEO of PIJAC, Mike Canning. “Mr. Hardin will work closely with the PIJAC legislative department in our continuous mission to ensure the rights of exotic and aquatic pet owners. Hailing from Florida, Mr. Hardin has instant credibility with other state regulators that could seek to limit the rights of people to responsibly own reptiles and other exotic pets,” added Canning.

“I’m looking forward to using my experience in dealing with exotic and invasive species to pursue PIJAC’s goals of promoting responsible pet ownership and environmental stewardship. Programs like Habitattitude™ and voluntary codes of conduct represent great opportunities to improve environmental awareness and maintain a healthy pet industry,” said Scott Hardin.

Mr. Hardin served as the Bureau Chief of Fisheries Services for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission where he conducted freshwater fisheries management projects, including aquatic habitat restoration, aquatic plant management, urban fisheries programs, non-native fish laboratory, and aquatic education. Most recently, Mr. Hardin was the Section Leader for Exotic Species Coordination at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, coordinating prevention and control activities including regulation development, education and outreach, eradication, and monitoring.

In addition, Mr. Hardin developed Florida’s Exotic Pet Amnesty Program which offers an alternative to releasing non-native pets into the wild. The Program hosts adoption events for all exotic reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and invertebrates. Every surrendered pet is inspected by a veterinarian, and all healthy pets are placed with qualified, pre-approved adopters. He has authored publications on risk analysis and continues to work on methodology to improve science-based risk assessments.

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is a national watchdog organization that acts proactively to fight industry damaging legislation. PIJAC continuously raises the standards of animal care excellence through effective legislation and educational programs, and promotes responsible pet ownership for all types of pets. The future of our industry depends on your involvement! Join PIJAC today at www.pijac.org.

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