



February 26, 2014

**TESTIMONY OF
PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

BILL S 264

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Position: SUPPORT

As an organization that routinely supports legislative efforts to advance the welfare of animals and ensure the public health and safety relative to pets and as a member of the recently concluded Task Force on the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Connecticut Pet Stores, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to express our support for S 264, an act establishing a Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal Shelters.

Nobody cares more about safe and healthy pet animals than does PIJAC. We have, for many years, provided a highly respected animal care certification program intended to ensure that employees are well trained in the care of the animals they sell; a program that is widely utilized not only by persons in the commercial pet trade but also shelters and humane societies throughout the country and one that has even been adopted as a statutory standard in some states. PIJAC has worked closely with the USDA on effective implementation of the Animal Welfare Act for pets since its inception almost fifty years ago, and has joined hands with state agencies to ensure adoption and enforcement of appropriate regulatory standards. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible and humane pet trade.

We applaud the continued efforts of the Connecticut Assembly to ensure the humane treatment of all animals, and we look forward to reading the report of this Task Force.

We thank the committee for this opportunity to express our support for S 264 and encourage its passage.

Sincerely,

Mike Bober
Vice President, Government Affairs
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

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