



**TESTIMONY OF THE PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL OPPOSING SENATE BILL 999
BEFORE THE JOINT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON MARCH 11, 2019**

As the world's largest pet trade association, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer this committee our views regarding Senate Bill 999, 'An Act Concerning the Fee for Adopting a Dog, Cat or Other Domestic Animal from a Municipal Pound and Requiring the Licensing of Such Cats and Other Domestic Animals'.

Representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members various associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. We represent pet breeders, pet product manufacturers, distributors, and retailers throughout Connecticut.

Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and routinely advocates for new statutory standards that are in the best interests of companion animals and the pet-owning public. We also continually seek to advance the voluntary implementation of superior standards in the care, handling, and transport of companion animals.

Our concern with the bill as written lies in the broad and undefined term "other domestic animal." As written, this bill would require that owners of all commonly kept companion animals pay to obtain licenses and tags for their animals. Without a clear definition, as written this would require licenses and tags for all animals, from hamsters and guinea pigs to reptiles, and would also include fish.

This requirement is broad and overreaching and has not been thoroughly vetted. This bill as written should be given much more consideration and "other domestic animal" should be clearly and reasonably defined for this section of statute before passage in order to avoid unintended consequences.

We respectfully urge the committee not to adopt this legislation as currently crafted. PIJAC would be pleased to provide whatever information or assistance the committee may desire in amending this bill to ensure effective legislation for Connecticut pet owners.

We thank the committee for its consideration of our concerns and welcome any questions that any member may have about this testimony and our recommendations for an effective bill.

Sincerely,

Courtney Hogan
Government Affairs Manager
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council