



AUSTIN TEXAS TO BAN SALE OF PETS

JUNE 2, 2010 HEARING DATE

The Issue.

The Austin Animal Advisory Commission is holding a public hearing on June 2, 2010 on two bills governing the sale of pets, followed by Commission discussion and action on the measures. One proposal would amend the existing “Pet Trader Ordinance” while the second is described as an ordinance “banning retail sales of companion animals.”

The Impact.

Existing law in Austin regulates “pet traders” who are defined as persons who “exchange for consideration” more than 15 dogs and/or cats in a year. The proposal would amend this ordinance to add requirements, including paperwork requirements and amendment of provisions requiring pet retailers to submit a fee to the city for every unsterilized dog or cat sold. No text is provided for the second proposal so it is difficult to evaluate the full implications of the ordinance should it be adopted, however the title largely speaks for itself.

PIJAC Position.

PIJAC opposes a general ban on the sale of pet animals as it fails to meet any legitimate public purpose.

Recommended Action.

The hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Assembly Room of the Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX. Persons concerned about these proposals should contact members of the commission prior to the Wednesday night hearing to voice their objections (visit the Commission website at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/boards/results.cfm?bid=2> for a contact list of the Commission membership). PIJAC will post updated alerts on its website at www.pijac.org to advise members of a change in status of these proposals as well as recommendations for future action.

Those who desire additional information about these proposals should contact PIJAC’s Michael Maddox via email at Michael@pijac.org by phone at 202-452-1525.