

Bill Could Ban Pet Trade, Consumer Shows, PIJAC Says

Pet industry group says the California proposal could be translated as a ban on cat and dog shows.

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A California bill that would ban the display and sale of live animals in certain public places, swap meets and flea markets, among other places, could “inadvertently encompass” a number of animal shows, consumer shows and pet industry trade shows, according to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC). PIJAC is calling on the public to contact state legislators to voice their concerns about the proposal, which is scheduled for a public hearing Wednesday, May 6.

As drafted, Assembly Bill 1122 would make it illegal for any person to “willfully sell, display or offer for sale or give away as part of a commercial transaction, a live animal on any street, highway, public right-of-way, commercial parking lot, or at any outdoor special sale, swap meet, flea market, parking lot sale, carnival or boardwalk.”

The bill does not define “swap meet” or “flea market.” In a PetAlert issued May 5, PIJAC stated that it has received comments from several show sponsors who questioned whether they fall within the nondefined terms.

According to PIJAC, the proposal could be interpreted as a ban on reptile shows, bird shows, fish shows, cat shows and dog shows. The wording, according to PIJAC, could also prohibit pet fairs, such as the annual America’s Family Pet Expo in Orange County, Calif., pet industry trade shows or other specialty shows that would not fall within the general perception of a “swap meet” or “flea market.”

The California Assembly Appropriations Committee is scheduled to hear the bill at 9 a.m. May 6.