

# PA Alert: Ask your State Representative to Oppose Proposal Limiting Pet Choice

A bill will be introduced soon in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that is designed to restrict breeders and limit pet choice and access to purpose-bred pets. This bill is expected to require retail pet stores to sell only random-source dogs obtained from shelters and rescues. *Even if you currently work only with dogs from non-professional/hobby breeders, this bill could have significant implications for your future ability to obtain a healthy, purpose-bred dog of your choice.*

UPDATE: The Bill has been introduced in Harrisburg as S1154. Contact your Senator ASAP!!

## **Facts About the Source of U.S. Pets and Pet Choice:**

- Fewer than 4 percent of pets in the US are obtained from pet shops. By contrast more than 40% are obtained from shelters or rescue operations. (*American Pet Product Manufacturers Survey, 2017*). This bill will do little to address any issues associated with substandard breeders.
- This bill is expected to ban the sale of pets from known, regulated and inspected sources and compel pet shops to only sell pets from random, unregulated sources (i.e., shelters, rescues, and other similar organizations not subject to breeder laws).
- This bill will dramatically reduce the average person's opportunity to choose a dog with the predictable type, legally-mandated care & oversight, and substantiated health background that come with purebred pets from regulated sources. Individuals who lack access to accurate information about pet sources or access to private hobby breeders will be the most impacted.
- This bill will harm responsible pet breeders and retailers who are regulated under federal and/or state laws, while encouraging the retail sale of pets from unlicensed and unregulated sources that are not subject to federal animal welfare or Pennsylvania's consumer protection laws.
- This bill does not require shelters or rescues to supply pet shops with dogs to sell. A lack of supply will prove economically disastrous for these businesses, the people who are employed by them, and consumers who rely on them.



**Contact your State Representative TODAY and ask them to not support any pet sales bans.**

Visit the AKC Legislative Action Center ([www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org)) and type your address in the "Find Your Elected Officials" box or visit [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) and use the "Find My Legislator" tool to get the name and contact information for your State Representative. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs at [President@PAFederationofDogClubs.org](mailto:President@PAFederationofDogClubs.org) or AKC Government Relations at [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

You can also find the text of S1154 at [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

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