

To Petco Vendors:

Petco is extremely concerned about the efforts to ban the sale of all animals in Cambridge, MA. This proposal is a brazen attempt to reduce companion animal ownership by limiting the public's access to animals. The proposed ordinance in the nearby town of Cambridge, MA represents a dramatic escalation in the threat to companion animal ownership and would set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the country.

The ordinance currently being considered by the Cambridge City Council would make it illegal to sell any companion animal, except fish, that come from any source but a shelter or rescue. This ban would not only eliminate the need for animals in the city but it would also eliminate the need for small animal, avian and reptile consumables and supplies in the city of Cambridge.

Today there are *virtually none* of these animals available for adoption in the entire state. MSPCA took in 6,800 last year and boasts an impressive 87.6% adoption rate for all animals, with dogs, cats and rabbits making up the vast majority of their intake. While in many ways this high adoption rate and low availability of animals is positive, it is a significant cause for concern in light of the Cambridge City Council's suggestion that we seek to source animals from these facilities.

We have also searched for reputable local breeders in the area, and there are no USDA-licensed and inspected breeders in the area. Those breeders we did find were generally found advertising through Craigslist, Oodle and other unregulated sites. Prohibiting pet stores from selling animals from licensed and inspected out-of-state breeders in favor of unregulated local alternatives is not in the best interest of pets or the public.

Supporters of this amendment fail to see the joy or fulfillment that owning such a pet can bring to people, and know that there is no way that shelters or rescues can meet the demand.

If stores are not able to offer pets that are unavailable elsewhere, then there is no reason for customers to purchase the habitats, food, toys or other accessories. We also know that customers with multiple pets shop for their dog and cat supplies at the location where they procured their pet. This will impact demand for dog and cat supplies as well.

Petco takes great pride in our efforts on behalf of homeless animals and our ability to provide the right humanely bred pets to loving families. As you know, we audit our suppliers to ensure the highest standards and respond quickly when we identify a problem. Please take the opportunity while you are here in Massachusetts to contact the Cambridge City Council and explain to them that the pet industry is far more responsible than it is being portrayed and that this decision will have broad reaching negative impact.

We ask that you:

- Send an email or call and ask the members of the Cambridge, MA City Council to vote NO on amending Title 6. (PIJAC Alert provides instructions)
- Share this message with your friends and neighbors, and ask them to send an email – this affects EVERYONE in the pet trade, as well as all people who want to make pets a part of their family.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Frechette

Senior Vice President, Merchandising