



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pet Care Community Supports Florida Commissioners' Decision to Reevaluate Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Rulemaking

Statement from Pet Advocacy Network President and CEO Mike Bober:

“The responsible pet care community appreciates the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) sensible decision to postpone their vote on an ill-advised rulemaking proposal that would have crippled growth and competitiveness for the state’s pet businesses without reducing the invasive species problem. As part of the FWC’s Technical Assistance Group, experts from the pet and animal exhibitor sectors have been working on solutions that will protect Florida’s delicate ecosystem while also safeguarding the pet businesses that support over 100K jobs and contribute nearly \$800M in local and state tax revenue. These experts stand ready to collaborate with FWC staff to draft a new proposal that is based on experience and science. An option we support is a conditional list, if needed, of prohibited species, which would be a much smaller, manageable and enforceable list than one that attempts to encompass all allowed species. We are dedicated to preserving the environment as we continue to help families in Florida and around the country experience the human-animal bond by connecting them with a wide variety of healthy pets.”

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About Pet Advocacy Network

The [Pet Advocacy Network](#) connects the experience and expertise of the responsible pet care community to lawmakers and governing bodies, advocating for legislative and regulatory priorities at the local, state, federal and international levels. Since 1971, the organization has worked to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure access to healthy pets, including small animals, cats, dogs, fish, reptiles and birds. Our members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations.

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