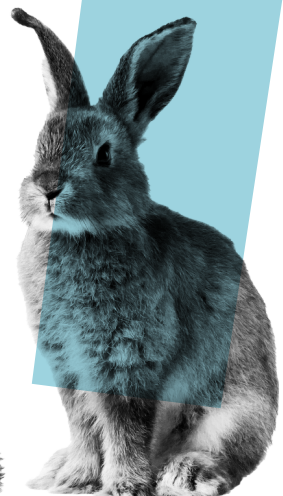
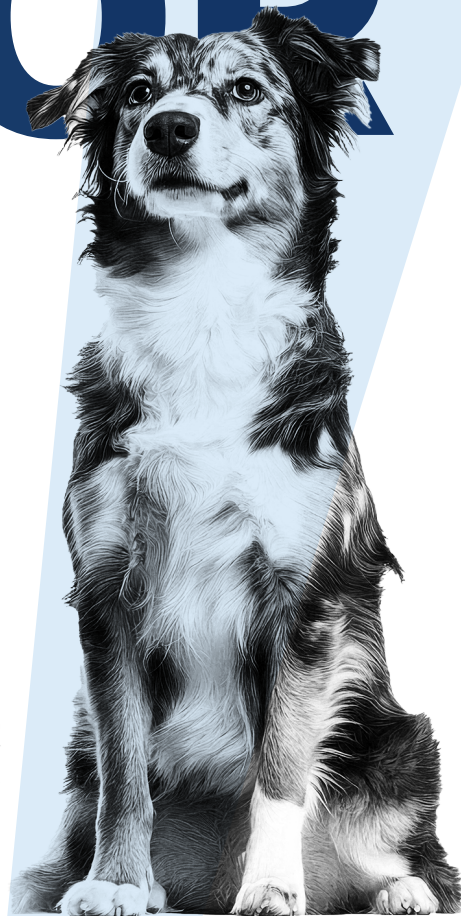


2024 ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The work of the Pet Advocacy Network is more important now than ever before. This past year, PAN:

- Stopped New Hampshire's state legislature from banning the sale of all pets with short noses (brachycephaly) or any other conditions they consider a "birth deformity that causes suffering." This was the first proposed ban of this kind in the U.S., and we have already seen one California community pass something like this locally. We expect to see more as this follows similar bans that have passed in several European countries.
- Worked in a coalition of pet retailers and breeders in Indiana to pass a bill that established statewide canine welfare standards. In the process, it repealed all 21 local bans on the sale of dogs across the state and prevents future pet sale bans.
- Continued our support of the Hawaiian fishers in getting their fishery reopened. This past year the fishers were delivered a huge victory in Hawaii when the Hawaiian Supreme Court voted in favor of sustainable, permitted fish collection off the big island of Hawaii, which upholds their long-approved Environmental Impact Statement.

These are just some of our accomplishments from this past year across the country. I encourage you to read our full annual report, which highlights the work of our committees, other notable legislation, and regulations we've worked on, and provides a brief preview of the coming year.

Our work is far from over and our opponents are well-funded and emotionally charged. If you are already a member of the Pet Advocacy Network, thank you! If you would like to get involved, I invite you to become a member, to donate to the Legislative Defense or Aquatic Fund, or to join our Network of Advocates which will officially launch in 2025. With your assistance, we can make our vision of a future with expanded opportunities to enjoy the companionship of healthy and well-treated pets a reality.

Sincerely,

CHRIS FLEMING
PET ADVOCACY NETWORK, CHAIR

Whether you call us the Pet Advocacy Network, PAN or even PIJAC, we will always be:

- YOUR voice with legislators and policy makers
- YOUR legislative and regulatory watchdog
- YOUR source of information and pet care best practice

DONATE

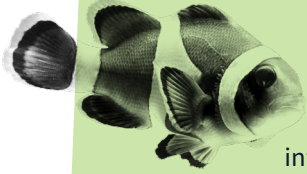


JOIN



COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Pet Advocacy Network has several committees that work alongside staff focusing on each pet sector ensuring that the membership stays informed of the latest developments.



The **Aquatic Subcommittee** solicits the advice of its members to advise the organization on aquatic policy issues and engages, alongside staff with legislators and regulators. Through increased collaboration and engagement with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), Washington State and the broader aquatic trade, over the past year, we have been able to better inform the community on the spread and prevention of invasive soft corals and zebra mussels that have been found in moss ball shipments. As with the last several years, the committee also remains very engaged in the litigation, regulation and legislation surrounding the Hawaii fishery and our attempt to see it reopened.

The **Canine Subcommittee** collects the experience and expertise of breeders, distributors, retailers, shelters, and veterinarians to advance canine health and well-being. This year, the committee helped shape PAN's interactions with the CDC on their new import restrictions, guided our involvement in contesting the New York state retail pet sale ban, and led our efforts to build bridges with like-minded agricultural and animal care organizations. Data and stories collected from committee members inform our work with the USDA on licensure and inspection and with Congress on their continued efforts to pass a long-overdue Farm Bill – conversations that were applauded by House Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn Thompson in his remarks at this year's DC Fly-In. The committee continues to address the threat of trait-based breeding bans that would outlaw many of the most popular dog and cat breeds and to push for statewide care standards instead of a patchwork of local bans.



In addition to regular committee activities such as advising staff on responding to legislative and regulatory action across the United States, the **Herp Subcommittee** has helped advance the Healthy Amphibian Trade research project; a National Science Foundation-funded research effort focused on identifying the safest practices for the trade of amphibians. This project aims to reduce the risk of disease transmission and protect both captive and wild amphibian populations. In 2024, Pet Advocacy Network's Herp Subcommittee launched a Best Management Practices (BMP) Task Force to evaluate and refine BMPs in the Herpetoculture sector. This task force is charged with reviewing current standards and developing new ones where gaps exist. BMPs remain a crucial advocacy tool, strengthening our ability to effectively represent the pet care community's interests with legislators and regulators. This review process will continue into 2025.

The **Zoonosis Committee** continued to meet monthly, partners who attend these monthly meetings include the USDA, CDC, NASPHV (National Association of State Public Health Vets), NAVC (North American Vet Community) and Pets Canada. During these meetings, in addition to providing regulatory and legislative updates to our members and partners, we also receive updates from our partner organizations and discuss relevant and current zoonotic disease outbreaks, and what we, as the responsible pet care community can do to prevent the spread of such diseases. A good example of this has been the ongoing and regular updates we receive from the CDC and Pets Canada on the ongoing bird flu outbreak in North America. During these meetings we discuss ways to keep the responsible pet care community engaged and involved, from reinforcing healthy handling techniques to making sure we are providing regular health alerts and updates we are always, looking for ways to continue educating our members. Each month we have welcomed a guest speaker from the CDC to present on some of the issues that we have seen, discussed and patterns that have emerged in Zoonotic Disease and tracing.



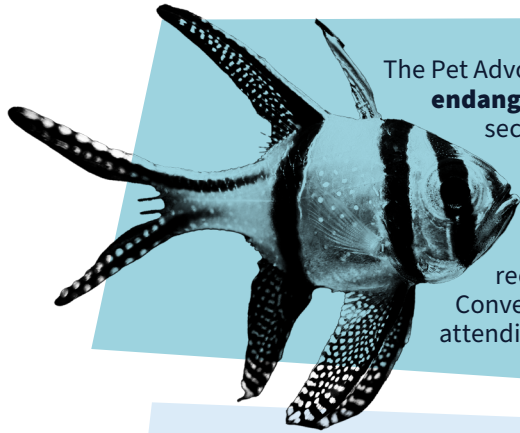
The **Small Animal Care Subcommittee** and Pet Advocacy Network staff continue to monitor recent legislative developments impacting the small animal care community. The Subcommittee began reviewing the individual small animal care sheets

published on Pet Advocacy Network's website. Updating these care sheets with the latest information in a format that is easy for the consumer to read will allow the care sheets to be utilized more in retail pet shops. Substantial edits to the hamster, guinea pig, gerbil, kitten, rabbit, and ferret care sheets have been made and will be published on our website in the coming months.



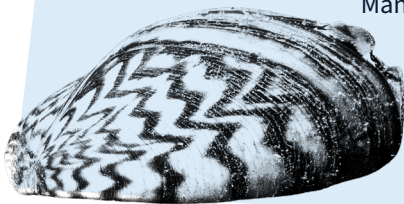
SPECIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

In addition to our work in the various pet sectors, Pet Advocacy Network staff also engage on issues that relate to invasive and endangered species as legislation within these areas of focus could have a profound impact on the pet care industry.



The Pet Advocacy Network monitors and engages in legislation and regulations regarding **endangered species** as it could affect the pet trade especially within the aquatic and herptile sectors. This year our efforts have been heavily focused on the aquatic community as we have seen a new proposed listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regarding 10 species of giant clams while we continue to await the publication of the final 4d rule for the Banggai cardinal fish. These listings or rules will have a dramatic effect on how species can be imported, exported, or traded domestically. Just as we did with the recent Marine Ornamentals Workshop we will continue to participate and engage with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by attending meetings of the Animals Committee.

The Pet Advocacy Network's engagement with **invasive species** regulators has expanded over the past year. Staff's role on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Organisms in Trade – Hitchhikers Subcommittee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force was instrumental in helping pet retailers address aquatic invasive species (AIS) concerns raised by state agencies in 2023. In fall 2023, we were invited to present to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Law Enforcement Committee on how regulators can collaborate with the pet care community to respond to aquatic invasive species threats. In Fall 2024, Pet Advocacy Network staff was selected to present alongside Petco at the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) highlighting how the pet industry has responded to several AIS hitchhiking challenges in the last several years.



International trade regulations and tariffs impact the availability, mobility, and pricing of both raw goods and finished products that are important to many pet products. Working with our partners at the American Pet Products Association (APPA), the Pet Industry Distributors Association (PIDA), and the World Pet Association (WPA), PAN is organizing manufacturers' roundtables to shape the pet care community's efforts to communicate our trade priorities to the President and the office of the US Trade Representative.



HABITATTITUDE™

Habitattitude is a national initiative developed by the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force in partnership with the Pet Advocacy Network, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA Sea Grant. Habitattitude promotes consumer awareness, responsible behaviors, and acts as a guide for wise consumer decisions. The goal is to educate prospective pet owners about the risk of invasive species to the environment, economy, and human health, and urging the public to protect the environment by not releasing unwanted fish, herptiles or aquatic plants into public areas. Our industry and federal partners are actively working on reinvesting in and reinvigorating this longstanding partnership, by updating and approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by early 2025.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
HABITATTITUDE



NOTABLE WINS

We monitored 1,300 bills over the past session, but the bills below stand out for how important their defeat or enactment was for the responsible pet care community.

STATEWIDE RETAIL PET SALE BANS/PREEMPTION

IN House Bill 1412: Puppy Protection Act (enacted)

This is a comprehensive canine welfare bill that will have a positive impact for dog breeders, pet retailers, consumers, animal facilities and animal rescue operations that do business in Indiana. The Pet Advocacy Network worked in a coalition with pet retailers and dog breeders in the state to pass this bill.

OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS/BREED SPECIFIC REGULATIONS (STATE/LOCAL)

NH House Bill 1102: Brachycephalic Ban (defeated)

This bill would have criminalized the sale of short nose animals while creating a dangerous precedent for other states to follow suit. The Pet Advocacy Network was able to defeat this bill by working with in-state partners and engaging with legislators.

VT: Burlington Ordinance (defeated)

Would have amended the Burlington Code of Ordinances to define and prohibit the ownership of certain exotic animals. “Exotic animal” would have meant all animals except domestic dogs, domestic cats, domestic mice, domestic rats, domestic rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, the European ferret, and livestock.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

HI Senate Bill 505: Complete Ban on Aquarium Fishing (defeated)

Would have prohibited the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial purposes, creating a significant hurdle, that if passed, would have meant no Hawaiian saltwater fish like Yellow Tangs would be available. The Pet Advocacy Network worked with Hawaiian partners and the aquarium fisheries community to defeat this bill.

TAXES/FEES

FL House Bill 7073/Senate Bill 7074: Taxation (enacted)

Amended Florida’s tax law by creating two tax holidays for disaster preparedness which include pet supplies. The comprehensive scope of pet supplies included in the tax holidays established by this bill demonstrates Florida’s dedication to pet welfare. PAN met with legislators and advocated in favor of this bill.

VA Senate Bill 31: Pet Food Tax (defeated)

Would have levied and imposed a surcharge of \$50.00 per ton on manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors of pet food to create an annual Companion Animal Surgical Sterilization Fund. The Pet Advocacy Network worked with our manufacturer members and engaged with legislators alongside our partners at PFI to defeat this bill.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS
WE TRACK IN YOUR STATE

ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

265

topics the Pet Advocacy Network staff engaged with a legislator at the state or federal level.

164 testimonies were submitted advocating on behalf of the responsible pet care community.

302

people registered for a Pet Advocacy Network webinar to learn more about legislative and regulatory topics of interest.

1,330 federal, state, and local bills, regulations and ordinances were monitored by the Pet Advocacy Network, which represents a 14% increase over the last session.

123

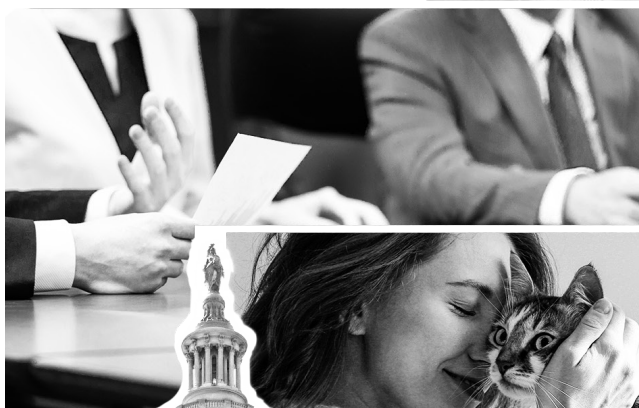
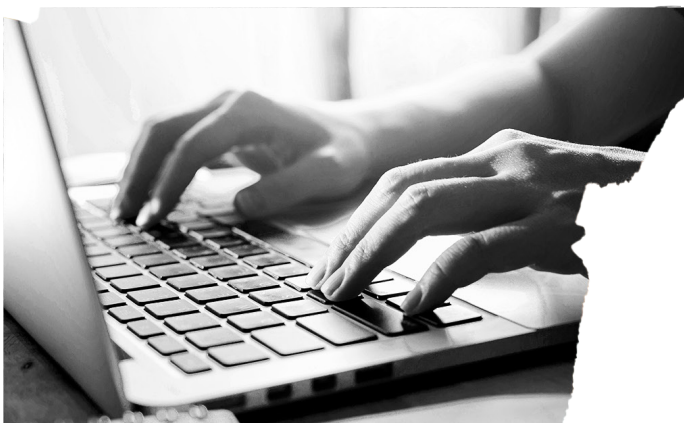
meetings were held between Members of Congress, their staff and nearly 90 members of the responsible pet care community during our Seventh Annual Pet Care Community Fly-In, held in September in conjunction with Pet Night on Capitol Hill.

30

Action Alerts were sent to the membership to act on a piece of legislation that could have had a negative impact on the responsible pet care community.

27

meetings, conferences, trade shows and symposia where staff attended or presented, representing the responsible pet care community and strengthening relationships with key allies and regulatory bodies.



LOOKING AHEAD



EVENTS

- **Pet Industry Leadership Summit:** January 13-15, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, FL.
- **Global Pet Expo:** March 26-28, 2025, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.
- **SUPERZOO:** August 13-15, 2025, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV.
- **Eighth Annual Pet Care Community D.C. Fly-In & Pet Night on Capitol Hill:** September 16, 2025.

WEBINARS

This year we launched a free, bi-monthly webinar series for members and non-members covering topics that are important to members of the responsible pet care community. We will continue this webinar series with new topics in 2025. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming webinars!

THE NETWORK OF ADVOCATES

The next step of our grassroots advocacy efforts will be launched in early 2025! Members of the Network of Advocates will help us act on the latest proposed legislation and regulations that could be harmful or beneficial to the responsible pet care community. Keep an eye out for more information on this exciting new program.

TO RE-WATCH ANY OF THE
WEBINARS FROM THIS PAST YEAR



JOIN THE NETWORK OF ADVOCATES
AS A CHARTER MEMBER





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