



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

**Re: AKC Concerns with Restriction on Pet Sales**

May 20, 2014

Dear Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

On behalf of our 34 dog clubs and many responsible dog owners and future dog owners in Milwaukee, the American Kennel Club (AKC) wishes to express our grave concerns with File 140011, which would restrict pet sales in the city and limit Milwaukee residents' choices in obtaining the best pet for their family.

The AKC is the world's largest purebred dog registry, the nation's largest purebred rescue network, and the only not-for-profit purebred dog registry devoted for more than 130 years to the health and wellbeing of dogs. We work actively to educate the public about responsible dog ownership and advocate for humane treatment of *all* dogs.

The AKC believes the best way for a person to obtain a new pet is through personal interaction with the pet's breeder and the pet under consideration. An important part of ensuring the success of a pet with a new owner is to ensure that it is an appropriate fit with the owner's lifestyle. Treasured pets may be obtained from a variety of sources, including breeders, pet stores, rescue, and local shelters.

If this legislation passes, families will lose an important source for choosing a pet that is the best fit for their lifestyle and circumstances. Unfortunately, many communities lack sufficient local breeders to meet the demand for the specific pets desired by local residents. ***When consumers cannot acquire a pet that is an appropriate fit for their lifestyle, that animal is more likely to end up in the shelter system. A better solution is to ensure that consumers are educated, understand the demands of responsible ownership and have access to a variety of pets so that they can make educated choices.***

***We also urge you to avoid a measure that interferes with the operation of legal businesses regulated by the state. Passage of a similar law in Phoenix, Arizona, has resulted in vigorous federal litigation and a stay against the implementation of those restrictions.***

In the interests of our shared commitment to the wellbeing of all dogs, the American Kennel Club urges you to oppose this arbitrary measure. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop public education programs and other alternative effective solutions to reduce shelter intakes, expand responsible dog ownership and promote freedom of pet choice in Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Sheila Goffe  
Director, Government Relations