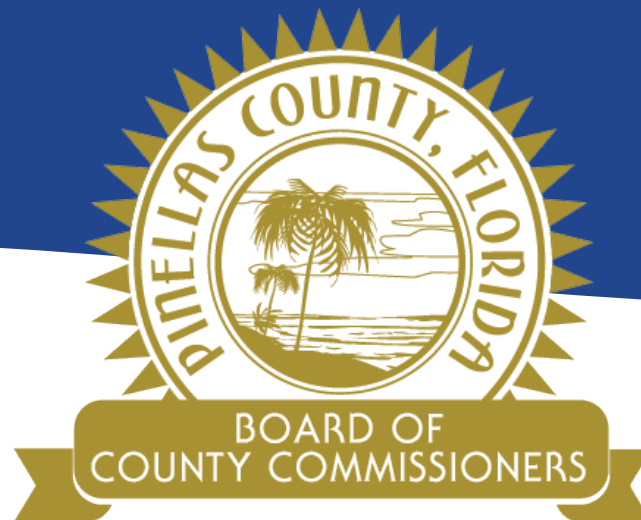


Pinellas County Ordinance Update

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Director



Our Vision:
To Be the Standard for
Public Service in America

The purpose of this presentation is to cover:

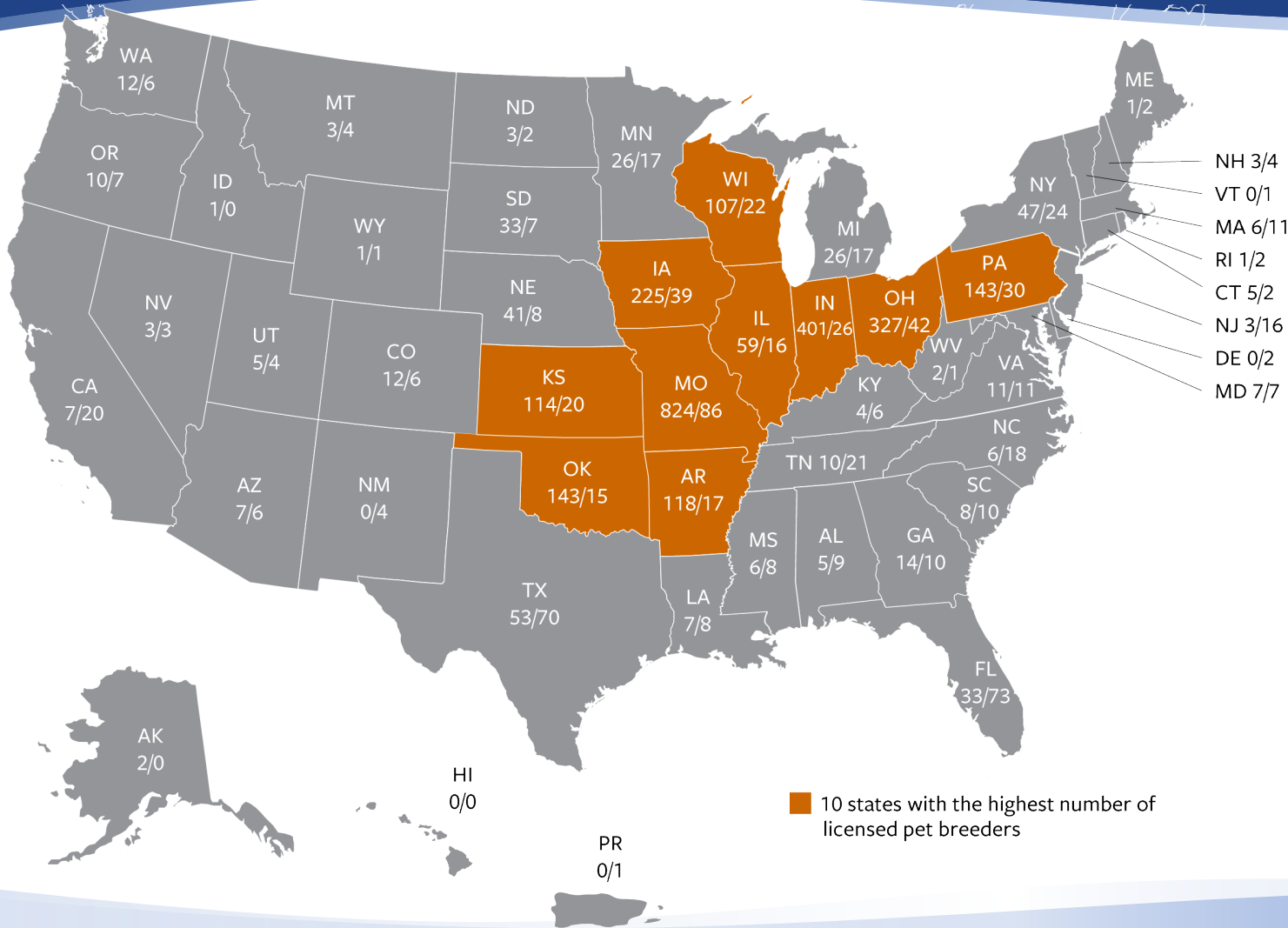
- **USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**
- **Consumer Protection**
- **Information on jurisdictions in the Tampa Bay area**
- **Ordinance Update**

The APHIS, Animal Care Unit (AC) is the division of the USDA that is responsible for licensing and inspecting Commercial Dog Breeders.

Commercial Dog Breeders can obtain either of the following licenses:

- **Class A** – Breeders that only deal with animals they breed and raise
- **Class B** – Brokers, Random Source Dealers and Operators of Auction Sales

USDA Licensed Pet Breeders: Types of Licenses: Class A/Class B



Class A: Commercial breeders. Facilities that breed companion animals, primarily dogs, for the pet trade.
Total: 2885

Class B: Brokers and dealers. Middlemen who obtain animals from breeders and then resell.
Total: 743



Based on data published by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), January 2022

The USDA Inspector General (IG) issued audit reports on APHIS Animal Care regulation of the dog breeding industry in 2010 and 2021. Findings of the reports include:

- **Minimal standards in place and minimal enforcement**
- **Enforcement process was ineffective against large-scale dog dealers**
- **Inspectors did not cite or document violations properly**
- **The APHIS penalty worksheet calculated minimal penalties**
- **APHIS misused guidelines to lower penalties**
- **Some breeders circumvented the AWA by selling animals online**
- **Minimal Work is being done to enforce the AWA**
- **Lack of organization by the USDA**

In 2021 the IG summary stated:

“We found that APHIS did not consistently address complaints it received or adequately document the results of its follow up. This occurred because APHIS does not have a documented process for resolving complaints and recording the results of the agency’s actions. As a result, some dog breeder facilities may be conducting regulated activity without a USDA license or oversight. **Therefore, APHIS is not able to ensure the overall health and humane treatment of animals at these facilities.”**

Research supports:

- **USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry.**
- **The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.**

Florida Department of Agriculture

- **Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale.**
- **Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record keeping.**
- **Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS 828.29.**

Currently there are 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states with retail pet sales bans

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • St. Petersburg | Complete ban |
| • Safety Harbor | Complete ban |
| • Dunedin | Complete ban |
| • Largo | Ban on new pet stores |
| • Hillsborough County | Complete Ban |
| • Pasco County | Complete Ban |
| • Manatee County | Complete Ban |

Ordinance update regarding pet stores:

- **Ban any new pet stores from opening in Pinellas County**
- **Grandfather existing stores with the additional regulations**
- **Do not allow expansion or relocation of existing stores**

Questions

