

California's Retail Pet Store Ban: A Case Study in Unintended Consequences

- California's Retail Pet Store Ban may be well-intentioned but swapping a regulated source of dogs for an unregulated source of dogs to improve "dog welfare" makes no sense.
- The unregulated rescues and shelters that are approved to sell dogs in California pet stores under the California Retail Pet Store Ban routinely acquire their dogs from dangerous, inhumane and unregulated sources, including the unacceptable breeders the California Retail Pet Store Ban was designed to put out of business.
- The unregulated rescues and shelters that are approved to sell dogs in California pet stores under the California Retail Pet Store Ban routinely import their dogs from foreign countries where veterinary care is nonexistent and serious – even lethal – zoonotic diseases are endemic.
- California's retail pet store ban only bans the sale of regulated sources of dogs, creating an underground marketplace of fly-by-night operators who acquire their dogs from unknown and unregulated sources that often carry diseases and parasites and have serious temperament problems.
- The California Retail Pet Store Ban promotes the sale of black market dogs.
- The California Retail Pet Store Ban reduces the availability of healthy dogs of the quality and type that the public wants.
- The California Retail Pet Store Ban deprives state and local governments of taxes and license fees from above-ground, legally operating businesses.
- The California Retail Pet Store ban throws thousands of Californians out of work.
- The California Retail Pet Store ban shifts the US pet marketplace away from today's highly regulated, \$70 billion pet industry model and toward a third world marketplace model heavily supplied by shelter dogs from distant states and foreign street dogs.
- California lawmakers may be well-intentioned, but when it comes to animal issues they often hear only one side of a very complicated story.
- Urban lawmakers often lack hands-on knowledge of animal issues and need to reach out to mainstream animal policy experts to learn how to reduce problems associated with issues like pet overpopulation, dangerous dogs and irresponsible dog ownership and breeding.
- Urban lawmakers need to reach out to the National Animal Interest Alliance, for evidence-based, mainstream solutions to complex animal-related issues.



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To learn more about important animal policy issues visit
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