



April 2023

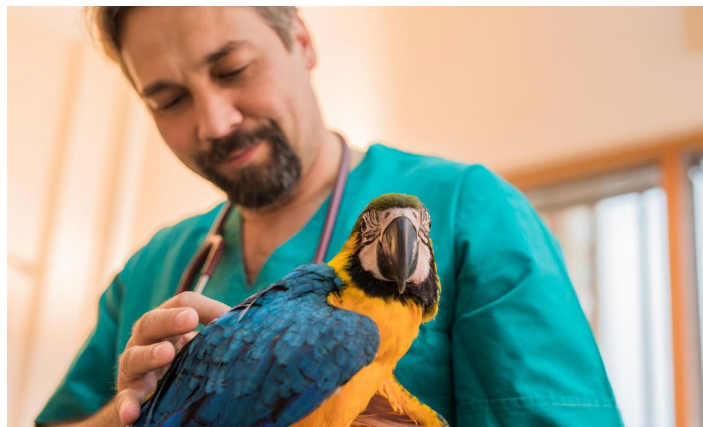
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New USDA Regulations Impact Bird Breeders and Distributors



In February, the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) issued new regulations for bird breeders and distributors, requiring the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to license and inspect breeders, distributors, and transporters of birds to be kept as pets. Anticipating this for over two years, we worked with aviculture societies, large-scale breeders, distributors, individual hobbyists and more to make sure the USDA heard from those with experience and expertise, whose ability to continue working with birds would be directly affected.

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Meet the Pets Brings Furry Stress Relief Back to Capitol Hill



The Meet the Pets on Capitol Hill event returned to Washington, D.C., on April 25, 2023, bringing furry stress relief during a busy legislative session. Pet Advocacy Network collaborated with [Pet Partners](#) and the [Pet Food Institute](#) on the opportunity to experience the benefits of the human-animal bond by interacting with therapy animals—and over 500 Congressional staffers and some Members participated (Rep. Aaron Bean, R-FL pictured).

This event was the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal was to help people learn about and experience the health benefits of animal-assisted interventions, such as relieving stress, high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression, as well as to remind policymakers of the importance of the human-animal bond.

PHOTO GALLERY

Proposed Florida Regulations Threaten Aquaculture and Pet Trade



The Pet Advocacy Network has participated in meetings with the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission \(FWC\)](#) as part of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to discuss the regulatory structure governing nonnative fish and wildlife and how it affects the entire responsible pet care community. During the March FWC Commissioners meeting, the decision was made to consider the use of a whitelist approach, which we believe to be severely flawed. It is unclear whether this approach will be ultimately adopted to create new rules or regulations, but for now, the Commission has taken steps to explore its feasibility.

FWC staff announced two potential rule changes at the most recent TAG meeting that would have a significant negative impact on the aquaculture industry—one would effectively shut down the entire trade in Florida.

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What's The Latest on Legislation?



Are you curious about the current state of pet-related legislation? You should be, because lawmakers are making decisions almost every day that could impact pets, pet ownership or your pet business. Our President and CEO Mike Bober recently released a video report that provides an overview of the legislative landscape and proposed bills that could impact pet businesses.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Upcoming Events

Pet Advocacy Network staff will be at these events, [log in](#) to the Member Portal home page for details!

- Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholder Summit – Arlington, VA – May 4-5
- Zoomark International 2023 – BolognaFiere, Italy – May 15-17
- National Animal Interest Alliance 2023 Conference – Portland, OR – May 26-28
- CITES Animal Committee – Geneva, Switzerland – June 19-23
- SuperZoo 2023 – Las Vegas – Aug. 16-18
- [Pet Care Community D.C. Fly-In](#) & [Pet Night on Capitol Hill](#) – Sept. 20

Thank you for your support of Pet Advocacy Network

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