



The Pet Leadership Council (PLC), an organization comprised of pet industry leaders, animal welfare advocates, veterinarians, and academia, reaffirms its support for the responsible and humane care of dogs and puppies in commercial breeding facilities, uniting everyone who cares for our pets behind efforts to establish meaningful standards for these operations.

Chairman of the PLC Bob Vetere said, “We must be committed to offering consumers puppies that are bred and raised in a responsible and humane environment that is focused on the welfare of the animals. Dog breeding operations must be accountable for the physical and mental needs of the dogs and ensure that they receive appropriate housing, shelter, staffing, nutrition, socialization, sanitation, exercise, and veterinary care.”

The PLC supports and believes in:

- Establishing science-based standards of care for all commercial breeding dogs and puppies.
- Ensuring transparency at every step in the process to guarantee consumers who choose to purchase a puppy have a humane source for acquisition.
- Promoting responsible pet ownership, beginning with identifying the perfect pet and educating consumers on proper care of puppies and dogs to reduce the need for relinquishment.
- Celebrating the educational and health benefits associated with the pet ownership and the human-animal bond.

The PLC strongly believes that a comprehensive educational program will also be critical so that people can find the dog that is right for them and know that it came from a responsible source. Addressing substandard breeding, procurement and welfare is a key factor in supporting pet stores and breeders that meet high standards of care and act as trusted sources for finding a puppy or dog to add to their family.

Steve King, President of the Pet Industry Distributors Association said, "Without a trusted, transparent source to acquire a pet, prospective pet owners can sometimes turn to untrustworthy sources including substandard breeders. The pet industry does not support sources of pets that do not meet quality standards."

"Scientific research on the human health benefits of pets is clear – pets are good for people, families and communities," said **Steven Feldman, executive director for the Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI)**. "Working together, we can educate people and help them chose the right pet to bring the benefits of the human-animal bond into their lives."

"The PLC is encouraged by and strongly supports the work being conducted by Dr. Candace Croney and The Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine to establish science based standards for breeders that will raise the care and welfare of their animals." said **Doug Poindexter President of the World Pet Association**. More information on the Purdue Study and several white papers already published can be found here - <http://vet.purdue.edu/CAWS/engagement.php#projects>



Dr. Gail Golab, Chief Advocacy and Public Policy Officer for the American Veterinary Medical Association said, "Good welfare for dogs and good outcomes for dog owners cannot be achieved without involving multiple communities, including breeders, shelters, transporters, retailers, veterinarians, and pet owners. Promoting and achieving excellent animal care is top priority for the AVMA and, accordingly, we support efforts that reflect this broad engagement."

The PLC encourages the entire pet industry to high standards of animal care and welfare, promotes transparent and responsible breeding practices and provides education and training on responsible pet ownership.



For more information, please contact Bob Likins, bob@pijac.org or call him at (202) 452-1525, ext. 1070