



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

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Monday, March 9, 2026

House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Capitol Room 120
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: AKC Opposes H.F. 2627, Prohibiting Pet Shops from Selling Cats and Dogs

Co-Chairs Koegel and O'Driscoll, Vice Chairs Elkins and Perryman, and members of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to express our opposition to H.F. 2627, which is currently before your committee.

AKC was established in 1884 as a not-for-profit animal welfare organization that promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. With 99 dog clubs throughout Minnesota, we are a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, training, and breeding, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. Together our clubs comprise the largest purebred rescue network in the United States, ensuring dogs receive the homes and care they deserve. This year, our AKC Canine Health Foundation is celebrating the funding of more than \$75 million for canine health research, which benefits all dogs.

AKC shares in concerns regarding proper care for animals; and believes great pets come from a variety of sources, including breeders, responsible rescues, and regulated pet shops and shelters. The crucial first step in supporting life-long responsible pet ownership is by educating prospective dog owners and enabling them to obtain a pet that is the right fit for their lifestyle. Consumers' freedom to select an appropriate pet should not be arbitrarily limited.

Under current law, Minnesota residents benefit from consumer protections to (1) ensure that pets purchased from pet dealers, including pet stores, are healthy and (2) provide redress should it be determined otherwise (M.S.A. § 325F.79, et seq.).

However, the stated purpose for H.F. 2627 is to prohibit pet shops from selling cats and dogs. This is problematic for several reasons:

(1) Minnesota's statutory protections for pet purchasers do not apply to those who acquire pets from shelters and rescues.

(2) When consumers cannot obtain the pet they want from licensed and inspected entities, they go to online sources of pets, where significant risks of online scams exist. Since 2017, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) has been [studying pet sales fraud](#) and warning consumers to exercise caution when purchasing pets without seeing them in person. It is estimated that while lower than 2020 and 2021 estimates, which saw significant increases in pet acquisition due to the Covid-19 pandemic, [pet scams still account for an estimated 18% of all online scams](#).

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

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(3) Pet retail ban proposals have resulted in negative and harmful consequences where they have been adopted. It has been a common practice that pets are imported into the U.S. to be redistributed by shelters and rescues. Typically, they originate from countries that lack enforcement resources to verify health statuses or are imported with falsified ownership or health certifications. This results in increases risks of zoonotic disease introduction and transfer, which threatens public health. (For example, see <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7120a3.htm>.)

(4) Shelter and rescue animals can also present a higher risk for undocumented behavioral challenges, such as aggression, and may not always be the best option for every family.

(5) H.F. 2627 jeopardizes small businesses and threatens an important source of pet ownership support. While H.F. 2627 would allow pet stores to showcase dogs sourced from shelters and rescues, it would not require shelters and rescues to work with pet stores. Without a source of pets, these stores would be forced to compete directly with big-box retail pet supplies stores, which realize economies of scale that small businesses cannot.

For these reasons, the American Kennel Club respectfully urges you to oppose H.F. 2627. If we may be of further assistance, please contact us at doglaw@akc.org or (919) 816-3720.

Kind regards,



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CC: H.F. 2627 Sponsors Norris, Engen, Backer, Finke, Falconer, Curren, Gottfried, Rehrauer, Smith, Freiberg, Xiong, Pérez-Vega, and Hemmingsen-Jaeger.