

# PFI, PIJAC named to Maryland spay/neuter task force



PFI has for many years successfully fought off attempts by state and local governments to tax pet food for a variety of purposes, usually related to animal control and animal welfare. The industry's position is that such a tax would be unfair and discriminatory because it would single out responsible pet owners for the acts of others. Funding for such programs, PFI argues, should come from the general fund.

When legislation was introduced in Maryland to establish a task force to study a potential state spay/neuter program, PFI understood that the output of the task force could recommend a pet food tax and launched into action to head it off. PFI worked closely with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) to educate state legislators about the importance of including pet industry representation on the task force.

As a result of the joint effort, when the House and Senate committees took up their respective bills, they were amended to specifically name PFI and PIJAC to the task force. Other organizations named to the task force include the Humane Society of the United States as well as Maryland animal welfare and shelter organizations.

"We are pleased that the Maryland House and Senate committees that considered the bills honored our requests to be able to represent the pet industry and pet owners in the deliberations of the task force," said Mike Canning, president and CEO of PIJAC.

At time of publication, both bills have been passed by the legislature and are awaiting the signature of Governor Martin O'Malley.

*Photo: (L) Kurt Gallagher, director-communications & export development of PFI, and Mike Canning, president & CEO of PIJAC, discuss strategy about being included on the Maryland spay/neuter task force.*

## About PIJAC

### Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)

PIJAC is the leading organization in the United States working on live animal issues. PIJAC represents the pet industry on matters such as commercial animal care and handling standards, responsible breeding, appropriate transportation conditions and many in other areas.

PIJAC was established in 1971.

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council  
1140 19th Street, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036

[www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org)  
[info@pijac.org](mailto:info@pijac.org)



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