



January 24, 2023

RE: Comments Regarding HB 1984 Companion Animals; Amends the Definition of Water

Dear Chairperson Wright and Members of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources:

On behalf of the responsible pet care community, we ask that you not amend the definition of water as written in the House Bill 1984. While we are always looking for, and welcome opportunities to improve the standard of care for pets this proposed legislation, unfortunately, does not advance care in a meaningful way.

The language in this bill is unnecessarily restrictive and could lead to confusion around the way water is dispensed during transportation or could lead to inconsistent standards of care. The way in which the current regulations are written ensures that animals have access to clean drinking water through a variety of methods. There are many reasons why a bowl may not be the best manner for an animal to access water and so limiting the delivery mechanism could impair the ability of an animal to remain properly hydrated

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, the Pet Advocacy Network represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners, and others involved in the many aspects of pet care across the United States. Our association works to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure the availability of healthy pets through our work at the state and federal levels—including the United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals to advance the public interest of protecting public health and the safety, health, and availability of companion animals.

All of us in the responsible pet care community don't just care about animals, we provide care for them daily—and are dedicated to ensuring that appropriate care of animals is the primary focus of any law or regulation. As such, we offer an unmatched depth and breadth of experience on legislative efforts to verify and certify the health and well-being of pets from the time they are born all the way until they are taken home and made a part of families.

We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to work together to find ways to meaningfully ensure the health and safety of companion animals.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Miller-Hurley
Senior Director of Government Affairs

1615 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
202.452.1525 | info@petadvocacy.org
Petadvocacy.org

