



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIJAC ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OFFICERS

Washington, DC, March 16, 2009 – The Board of Directors of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is pleased to announce the election of three new officers and the re-election of one officer. The election took place as part of PIJAC's Annual Meeting, held during Global Pet Expo in February.

Frank Koch of Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Pet Foods was elected Chairman of the Board. Mr. Koch most recently served as First Vice President, and has been a member of the Board since 2002.

Jeff Sutherland of Breeder's Choice, formerly Secretary/Treasurer of the board, was elected to succeed Mr. Koch as First Vice President. Ruth Jeffers of Jeffers Pet, who represents the World Wide Pet Industry Association on PIJAC's board, was re-elected Second Vice President and Paul Norton of Norton Fisheries, who also represents the Florida Tropical Fish Farmers Association, will succeed Mr. Sutherland as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Norton previously served as Secretary/Treasurer, from 2002 until 2004.

Recognizing outgoing Chairman Elwyn Segrest's dedication to PIJAC, James V. Heim of Central Garden & Pet noted, "I want to thank Elwyn for his hard work and leadership. He led this board through the beginning of a big transition for PIJAC, and the search committee through hiring Pamela (PIJAC's President) with professionalism, skill and composure."

In addition to the election of officers, it was announced that five members of the Board had been re-elected by PIJAC's membership: Bill Brant of the Gourmet Rodent, Companion Animal Supplier; Bob Merar of General Pet Supply, Distributor; Frank Koch, Manufacturer; Mark Pustizzi of NEMA, Inc., Manufacturer's Representative; and Marcie Whichard of PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc., Retailer. Cedric Danby of PFX Pet Supply, was elected to fill a Distributor vacancy on the Board.

The officers of PIJAC's Board of Directors are elected to a one-year term. Members of the Board of Directors are elected to three-year terms.

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Since 1970, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has protected pets and the pet industry – promoting responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, fostering environmental stewardship, and ensuring the availability of pets. PIJAC members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers' representatives, pet hobbyist groups, and other trade organizations. Through the combined voice of these people, PIJAC serves the best interests of the entire pet industry. For more information, please visit www.pijac.org