

Pet store Ban BoCC information

There are actually **three separate phases**: the original ban in 2021, the repeal in 2023, and the new restrictions/new-store ban beginning in 2024–2025.

1. August 10, 2021 — Original pet-store ban

BOCC Regular Meeting — 8:30 AM

This is the key meeting where Manatee County adopted **Ordinance 21-28**, the retail ban on sales of dogs and cats.

- **Time certain: 1:30 PM**
- **Agenda Item 39**
- **Ordinance 21-28 — Retail Ban on the Sales of Dogs and Cats**
- The ordinance prohibited the sale of dogs and cats in **stores and flea markets**.
- There was extensive public participation; contemporary reporting says **more than 60 people** spoke during the debate.
- The Board ultimately voted **4–3** to approve it.

[Official August 10, 2021 BOCC agenda](#)

The resulting ordinance was **Ordinance 21-28**, adopted August 10, 2021. The code provided an amortization period for existing stores, with the ban taking effect for those stores in August 2022.

2. January 31, 2023 — Repeal of the ban

BOCC Regular Meeting — 9:00 AM

This is the **most important 2023 meeting** concerning the pet-store ban.

Agenda Item 50

Ordinance 23-34 — Repealing the Prohibition on the Retail Sale of Cats and Dogs

It was an **Advertised Public Hearing** under the Attorney's agenda.

[Official January 31, 2023 BOCC agenda](#)

The Board voted to repeal the 2021 prohibition following the litigation involving the local Petland stores. Contemporary reporting states the vote was **5–1**, with **Commissioner George Kruse voting against repeal** and Commissioner Vanessa Baugh absent.

This is therefore the BOCC meeting where the 2021 pet-store ban was formally undone.

Public comments

This meeting is particularly important if you're looking for **what members of the public said about the ban**, because the issue generated significant public testimony.

Reported speakers included:

- Animal-welfare advocates supporting the ban
- Petland representatives/opponents of the ban
- Residents concerned about puppy mills

- Former Commissioner Carol Whitmore
- Others addressing the economic/business consequences

The contemporary report identifies comments from Laura Weiss, Holly Barbour and others.

3. October 22, 2024 — Regulation of pet stores and breeders

BOCC Regular Meeting — 9:00 AM

The County returned to the subject after the 2023 repeal.

Agenda Item 29

Ordinance 24-92 — Creation of Article II, Inspection and Regulation of Pet Stores and Breeders

This was an **Advertised Public Hearing**.

The ordinance did **not reinstate the 2021 outright retail-sale ban**. Instead, it established an inspection/regulatory framework for pet stores and breeders.

[Official October 22, 2024 BOCC agenda](#)

This is an important meeting to include if you're building a complete history because it is the BOCC's next major action concerning pet stores after the 2023 repeal.

4. February 18, 2025 — Commissioner request to reinstate the pet ban

BOCC Regular Meeting — 9:00 AM

This is where the issue came back as a **Commissioner Agenda Item**.

Item 39

“Discussion on reinstating the retail pet ban in Manatee County”

This was placed under:

O. COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS → Item for Discussion

[Official February 18, 2025 BOCC agenda](#)

This is particularly significant because it explicitly says **“reinstating the retail pet ban.”**

The discussion ultimately led to the Board directing staff to investigate/draft a new approach.

5. June 3, 2025 — New pet-store restrictions / ban on new stores

The Board subsequently adopted **Ordinance 25-33**.

This was not exactly the same as the 2021 ban.

The 2025 ordinance:

- Prevents **new stores selling dogs or cats** from opening in Manatee County.
- Allows the existing qualifying retailers to continue under restrictions.
- Adds licensing/inspection requirements.
- Establishes additional requirements for breeders and pet retailers.
- Includes reporting requirements concerning dog and cat sales.

The vote was **7–0**.

[Official Ordinance 25-33 document](#)

The timeline

Date	BOCC meeting	Action
Aug. 10, 2021	Regular — 8:30 AM	Ordinance 21-28 adopted — retail sale of dogs/cats banned
Jan. 31, 2023	Regular — 9:00 AM	Ordinance 23-34 — 2021 ban repealed
Oct. 22, 2024	Regular — 9:00 AM	Ordinance 24-92 — pet-store/breeder inspection & regulation
Feb. 18, 2025	Regular — 9:00 AM	Commissioner Item 39 — discussion of reinstating retail pet ban
June 3, 2025	BOCC	Ordinance 25-33 — no new dog/cat retail stores + stricter regulation of existing stores/breeders

One important point

The **2021 and 2023** meetings are the ones you want if your focus is specifically the original “pet store ban.”

The **October 2024, February 2025, and June 2025** meetings are the later legislative history showing how the County moved from:

2021 outright ban → 2023 repeal → 2024 regulation → 2025 attempt to reinstate → 2025 compromise/new-store ban.

And if you're specifically looking for **every BOCC meeting where the pet-store ban was discussed — including meetings before the final votes, commissioner comments, citizen comments, and the litigation/repeal discussions** — I can go further and build you a **meeting-by-meeting chronology from 2021 through 2025**, including the **exact agenda item, meeting time, speakers/citizen comments, votes, and links to each official BOCC record.**