

# FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



### BEN'S BARKETPLACE, INC. 701 Pleasant Grove Blvd., #120 A California Corporation Roseville, California 95678 Phone: (916) 797-3647 brad@bensbarketplace.com www.bensbarketplace.com

Ben's Barketplace businesses operate retail health food pet stores that offer premium quality pet food, toys and related products, and information and education to pet owners on the proper diet, health and well-being of their pets ("Ben's Barketplace Business(es)").

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a single Ben's Barketplace Business ranges from \$188,550 to \$360,550, including between \$33,750 and \$45,000 which must be paid to the franchisor or its affiliates.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. Note, however, that no governmental agency has verified the information contained in this document.

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Sally Romero at 701 Pleasant Grove Blvd., #120, Roseville, California 95678, (844) 321-3647.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or an accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "A Consumer's Guide to Buying a Franchise," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at www.ftc.gov for additional information. In addition, there may be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

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### **STATE COVER PAGE**

Your state may have a franchise law that requires a franchisor to register or file with a state franchise administrator before offering or selling in your state. REGISTRATION OF A FRANCHISE BY A STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE FRANCHISE OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in  $\underline{\text{Exhibit E}}$  for information about the franchisor or about franchising in your state.

MANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO RENEW UNCONDITIONALLY AFTER THE INITIAL TERM EXPIRES. YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE YOUR BUSINESS. BEFORE YOU BUY, CONSIDER WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR FRANCHISE, IF ANY, AND WHAT TERMS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO RENEW.

Please consider the following RISK FACTORS before you buy this franchise:

- 1. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES YOU TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH US BY ARBITRATION/LITIGATION ONLY IN CALIFORNIA. OUT-OF-STATE ARBITRATION/LITIGATION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY ALSO COST YOU MORE TO ARBITRATE/LITIGATE WITH US IN CALIFORNIA THAN IN YOUR OWN STATE.
- 2. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES THAT SPOUSES MUST SIGN A GUARANTY MAKING SUCH SPOUSE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE FOR THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT, PLACING PERSONAL ASSETS AT RISK.
- 3. THERE MAY BE OTHER RISKS CONCERNING THIS FRANCHISE.

We may use the services of one or more FRANCHISE BROKERS or referral sources to assist us in selling our franchise. A franchise broker or referral source is <u>our</u> agent and represents us, not you. We pay this person a fee for selling our franchise or referring you to us. You should be sure to do your own investigation of the franchise.

Effective Dates: See next page for state effective dates.





# STATE EFFECTIVE DATES

The following states require the disclosure document be registered or filed with the state, or be exempt from registration: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

This disclosure document is registered, on file, or exempt from registration in the following states having franchise registration and disclosure laws, with the following effective dates:

EFFECTIVE DATE
Pending
NOT REGISTERED
Pending
NOT REGISTERED

### Effective Dates for States Requiring Registration and Notice Filings:



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