AN ACT

Requiring certain research facilities to offer retired animals for adoption; and providing for civil immunity under certain circumstances and for enforcement by Department of Agriculture.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Retired Animal Adoption Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Animal rescue organization." A nonprofit organization whose purpose is rescuing animals in need and finding permanent adoptive homes for the animals.

"Animal shelter." A nonprofit organization that provides
housing and care for animals, directly or through third-party agreements, with the purpose of finding permanent homes for these animals through an adoptive process.

"Private placement." An arrangement between a research facility and an individual seeking to adopt a retired animal.

"Research facility." A higher education research facility that receives public money, including tax-exempt status, or a facility that provides research in collaboration with a higher education facility and any other research facility that conducts experiments on dogs or cats for science, testing, education or research purposes.

"Retired animal." A cat or dog that has been previously used for science, testing, education or research purposes and is no longer required by the facility and has no substantial medical condition or safety consideration preventing successful integration into a family home.

Section 3. Duties of research facilities.

(a) Offer of retired animals for adoption.--A research facility, or employee or student thereof, that confines and uses dogs and cats for research, education, testing or scientific purposes, instead of euthanizing a retired animal, shall:

(1) offer the retired animal to an animal rescue organization or animal shelter for adoption; or

(2) offer the retired animal for adoption through private placement.

(b) Agreement required.--A research facility that is required to offer a retired animal to an animal rescue organization under this section shall enter into an agreement with an animal rescue organization or animal shelter for implementation of this section.
Section 4. Civil immunity.
A research facility that provides a retired animal to a rescue organization under this section shall be immune from civil liability that otherwise might result from its actions, provided that the research facility acts in good faith.

Section 5. Enforcement.
The Department of Agriculture shall enforce the provisions of this act.

Section 6. Effective date.
This act shall take effect in 60 days.