
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 19 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, COHEN, SCHREIBER, FRANKEL,
HENNESSEY, THOMAS, O'BRIEN, McNEILL, V. BROWN, MURT, D. COSTA
AND McCARTER, JANUARY 21, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 21, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating the "shelter pet" as the official pet of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 62% of all households in the United
5 States have a pet; and

6 WHEREAS, About 83.3 million dogs and about 95.6 million cats
7 are owned in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The growing pet population continues to be a problem
9 in this Commonwealth and across the nation, placing an
10 increasing strain on local animal shelters; and

11 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 3,500 animal shelters across
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately six million to eight million companion
14 animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year; and

15 WHEREAS, An estimated 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and
16 dogs are euthanized by shelters each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 750,000 dogs and cats classified as

1 unadoptable are euthanized annually for reasons such as illness,
2 aggression and owner request; and

3 WHEREAS, Nationally, 20% of owned dogs and 26% of owned cats
4 are adopted from an animal shelter; and

5 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of dogs who enter local shelters
6 are purebred; and

7 WHEREAS, Most shelters perform health examinations and give
8 vaccinations to animals when they arrive, and most spay or
9 neuter them before being adopted; and

10 WHEREAS, Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is less
11 expensive than buying a pet at a pet store or through a breeder;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The number of euthanized animals could be reduced
14 dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them.

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

17 Section 1. Official State Pet.

18 The "shelter pet" is hereby designated as the official pet of
19 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

20 Section 2. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect immediately.