

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 2164 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, BARBIN, O'NEILL, WATSON, BARRAR,  
PASHINSKI, BIZZARRO, DAVIS, DONATUCCI, W. KELLER, KULIK,  
J. McNEILL, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD,  
DRISCOLL, FRANKEL AND GILLEN, MARCH 26, 2018

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
MARCH 26, 2018

---

AN ACT

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

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

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

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

17 "Animal shelter." A nonprofit organization that provides

1 housing and care for animals, directly or through third-party  
2 agreements with the purpose of finding permanent homes for these  
3 animals through an adoptive process.

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

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

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

17 Section 3. Duties of research facilities.

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

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

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

26 (b) Agreement required.--A research facility that is  
27 required to offer a retired animal to an animal rescue  
28 organization under this section shall enter into an agreement  
29 with an animal rescue organization or animal shelter for  
30 implementation of this section.

1 Section 4. Civil immunity.

2 A research facility that provides a retired animal to a  
3 rescue organization under this section shall be immune from  
4 civil liability that otherwise might result from its actions,  
5 provided that the research facility acts in good faith.

6 Section 5. Enforcement.

7 The Department of Agriculture shall enforce the provisions of  
8 this act.

9 Section 6. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect in 60 days.