
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 238 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, PASHINSKI, DEASY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI,
FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, IRVIN, JOZWIAK, KEEFER, KINSEY,
LONGIETTI, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHWEYER, SIMMONS, ULLMAN AND RAVENSTAHL, JANUARY 28, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
JANUARY 28, 2019

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
3 these 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.