
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 534 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, COLLETT, LEACH, FARNESE, K. WARD, COSTA,
SANTARSIERO, KILLION AND TARTAGLIONE, APRIL 8, 2019

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, APRIL 8, 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
18 housing and care for animals, directly or through third-party
19 agreements, with the purpose of finding permanent homes for

1 these animals through an adoptive process.

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

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

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

15 Section 3. Duties of research facilities.

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

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

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

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

29 Section 4. Civil immunity.

30 A research facility that provides a retired animal to a

1 rescue organization under this section shall be immune from
2 civil liability that otherwise might result from its actions,
3 provided that the research facility acts in good faith.

4 Section 5. Enforcement.

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

7 Section 6. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.