

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 208

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pet Safety and Protec-  
5 tion Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PETS.**

7 (a) RESEARCH FACILITIES.—Section 7 of the Animal  
8 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2137) is amended to read as fol-  
9 lows:

1 **“SEC. 7. SOURCES OF DOGS AND CATS FOR RESEARCH FA-**  
2 **CILITIES.**

3 “(a) DEFINITION OF PERSON.—In this section, the  
4 term ‘person’ means any individual, partnership, firm,  
5 joint stock company, corporation, association, trust, es-  
6 tate, pound, shelter, or other legal entity.

7 “(b) USE OF DOGS AND CATS.—No research facility  
8 or Federal research facility may use a dog or cat for re-  
9 search or educational purposes if the dog or cat was ob-  
10 tained from a person other than a person described in sub-  
11 section (d).

12 “(c) SELLING, DONATING, OR OFFERING DOGS AND  
13 CATS.—No person, other than a person described in sub-  
14 section (d), may sell, donate, or offer a dog or cat to any  
15 research facility or Federal research facility.

16 “(d) PERMISSIBLE SOURCES.—A person from whom  
17 a research facility or a Federal research facility may ob-  
18 tain a dog or cat for research or educational purposes  
19 under subsection (b), and a person who may sell, donate,  
20 or offer a dog or cat to a research facility or a Federal  
21 research facility under subsection (c), shall be—

22 “(1) a dealer licensed under section 3 that has  
23 bred and raised the dog or cat;

24 “(2) a publicly owned and operated pound or  
25 shelter that—

26 “(A) is registered with the Secretary;

1           “(B) is in compliance with section 28(a)(1)  
2           and with the requirements for dealers in sub-  
3           sections (b) and (c) of section 28; and

4           “(C) obtained the dog or cat from its legal  
5           owner, other than a pound or shelter;

6           “(3) a person that is donating the dog or cat  
7           and that—

8           “(A) bred and raised the dog or cat; or

9           “(B) owned the dog or cat for not less  
10           than 1 year immediately preceding the dona-  
11           tion;

12           “(4) a research facility licensed by the Sec-  
13           retary; and

14           “(5) a Federal research facility licensed by the  
15           Secretary.

16           “(e) PENALTIES.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person that violates this  
18           section shall be fined \$1,000 for each violation.

19           “(2) ADDITIONAL PENALTY.—A penalty under  
20           this subsection shall be in addition to any other ap-  
21           plicable penalty.

22           “(f) NO REQUIRED SALE OR DONATION.—Nothing  
23           in this section requires a pound or shelter to sell, donate,  
24           or offer a dog or cat to a research facility or Federal re-  
25           search facility.”.

1 (b) FEDERAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.—Section 8 of  
2 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2138) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “Sec. 8. No department” and  
4 inserting the following:

5 **“SEC. 8. FEDERAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.**

6 “Except as provided in section 7, no department”;

7 (2) by striking “research or experimentation  
8 or”; and

9 (3) by striking “such purposes” and inserting  
10 “that purpose”.

11 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Section 28(b)(1) of the Animal  
12 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2158(b)(1)) is amended by striking  
13 “individual or entity” and inserting “research facility or  
14 Federal research facility”.

15 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 The amendments made by section 2 take effect on  
17 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of  
18 this Act.

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