

2017 -- H 5161

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DISPOSITION OF RESEARCH
ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Serpa, Keable, Fogarty, and Fellela

Date Introduced: January 19, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 4 of the General Laws entitled "ANIMALS AND ANIMAL
2 HUSBANDRY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 27

4 RETIREMENT OF RESEARCH DOGS AND CATS

5 **4-27-1. Short title.**

6 This act shall be known and may cited as the "Research Animal Retirement Act."

7 **4-27-2. Research dogs and cats -- Retirement.**

8 (a) A higher education research facility that receives public money, including tax-exempt
9 status, or a facility that provides research in collaboration with a higher education facility shall,
10 after the completion of any testing or research involving a dog or cat, assess the health of the dog
11 or cat and determine whether it is suitable for adoption. Such facility shall thereafter make
12 reasonable efforts to offer for adoption the dog or cat determined to be suitable for adoption,
13 either through private placement or through an animal rescue and shelter organization, a duly
14 incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, a duly incorporated humane society,
15 or a duly incorporated animal protective association that operates physical animal sheltering
16 facilities and offers household pets to the public for adoption by way of an established adoption
17 program. These efforts shall be made prior to euthanizing such dog or cat. Nothing in this section
18 shall create a duty upon such an organization, association or society to accept a dog or cat offered

1 by a higher education research facility for adoption.

2 (b) A facility that is required to offer dogs or cats for adoption under this section may
3 enter into an agreement with an animal rescue and shelter organization, a duly incorporated
4 society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, a duly incorporated humane society, or a duly
5 incorporated animal protective association that operates physical animal sheltering facilities and
6 offers household pets to the public for adoption by way of an established adoption program.

7 (c) The attending or institutional veterinarian at a facility that is required to offer dogs or
8 cats for adoption under this section shall have the authority to assess the health of an animal and
9 determine whether an animal is suitable for adoption.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would require educational institutions using dogs or cats for medical research to
- 2 make animals no longer useful for research available for adoption.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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