

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1802

To prohibit the use of animals in federally funded research, promote the adoption of humane and scientifically advanced alternatives, and ensure the ethical rehoming of retired research animals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself and Mr. BEAN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of animals in federally funded research, promote the adoption of humane and scientifically advanced alternatives, and ensure the ethical rehoming of retired research animals, and for other purposes.

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 “Safeguard Pets, Ani-
5 mals, and Research Ethics Act” or the “SPARE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Tens of millions of animals are used annu-
4 ally in federally funded research, including dogs,
5 cats, rabbits, primates, and other species.

6 (2) Many of these animals cost thousands of
7 tax dollars each, burdening taxpayers with billions of
8 dollars annually in inefficient and unnecessary re-
9 search costs.

10 (3) Modern non-animal research alternatives,
11 such as human-cell-based models, artificial intel-
12 ligence, and organ-on-chip technology, provide more
13 reliable and ethical research methods.

14 (4) The continued use of animals in federally
15 funded research contradicts existing Three Rs (Re-
16 duce, Refine, Replace) policy goals aimed at reduc-
17 ing reliance on animal models.

18 (5) Many animals used in federally funded re-
19 search are viable for adoption or sanctuary place-
20 ment upon the cessation of experiments.

21 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH, TESTING,**
22 **AND EXPERIMENTATION THAT UTILIZES AN**
23 **ANIMAL.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in
25 this section, a Federal department, Federal agency, Fed-
26 eral contractor, subcontractor, or grantee may not author-

1 ize, obligate or expend funds for, or otherwise engage in
2 research, testing, and experimentation that utilizes an ani-
3 mal.

4 (b) SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES.—

5 (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—A Federal contractor,
6 subcontractor, or grantee that violates subsection (a)
7 or subsection (f)(1) shall be subject to a civil penalty
8 in an amount of not more than \$250,000.

9 (2) SANCTIONS.—

10 (A) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGEN-
11 CIES.—If the Secretary of Agriculture or the
12 Director of the National Institutes of Health
13 determines that a Federal department or agen-
14 cy has violated subsection (a) or subsection
15 (f)(1), such department or agency shall imple-
16 ment a plan, which may include a reporting re-
17 quirement, prescribed by such Secretary or Di-
18 rector, as the case may be, to correct the viola-
19 tion.

20 (B) FEDERAL CONTRACTORS, SUB-
21 CONTRACTORS, AND GRANTEES.—Notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law, if the Sec-
23 retary of Agriculture or the Director of the Na-
24 tional Institutes of Health determines, after
25 reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing,

1 that a Federal contractor, subcontractor, or
2 grantee has violated subsection (a) or sub-
3 section (f)(1), such contractor, subcontractor,
4 or grantee may be prohibited from receiving, for
5 a period of time specified by such Secretary or
6 Director, as the case may be, a Federal grant
7 for research, testing, and experimentation.

8 (c) DELAYED APPLICATION.—

9 (1) EIGHTEEN MONTHS.—With respect to re-
10 search, testing, and experimentation that utilizes an
11 animal and relates to cosmetic testing, toxicity test-
12 ing, or basic psychological or behavioral experi-
13 menting, subsection (a) shall not apply until 18
14 months after the date of the enactment of this sec-
15 tion.

16 (2) THREE YEARS.—With respect to research,
17 testing, and experimentation that utilizes an animal
18 and relates to biomedical experimenting or drug
19 testing, subsection (a) shall not apply until three
20 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

21 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—

22 (1) CERTAIN VETERINARY RESEARCH OR ANI-
23 MALS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to research,
24 testing, and experimentation that utilizes an animal
25 and relates to any of the following:

1 (A) Clinical veterinary research.

2 (B) A physical exam, training program, or
3 study relating to a military animal or service
4 animal.

5 (2) CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—A Fed-
6 eral department, Federal agency, Federal contractor,
7 subcontractor, or grantee may authorize, obligate or
8 expend funds for, or otherwise engage in research,
9 testing, and experimentation that utilizes an animal
10 if the following requirements are satisfied:

11 (A) The head of such department, agency,
12 contractor, subcontractor, or grantee submits to
13 Congress an application that states the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (i) Such research, testing, and experi-
16 mentation would relate to an infectious
17 disease or national security.

18 (ii) Such research, testing, and experi-
19 mentation would utilize such animal spar-
20 ingly.

21 (iii) Such head has determined that
22 an alternative does not exist for such re-
23 search, testing, and experimentation.

24 (B) After Congress receives the application
25 described in subparagraph (A), Congress enacts

1 a joint resolution that authorizes such research,
2 testing, and experimentation for a period of not
3 more than one year.

4 (e) FEDERAL RESEARCH MODERNIZATION FUND.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Research Mod-
6 ernization Fund (in this subsection referred to as
7 the “Fund”) is established in the National Science
8 Foundation.

9 (2) FUNCTIONS.—Not later than one year after
10 the date of the enactment of this section, the Direc-
11 tor of the National Science Foundation, through the
12 Fund, shall carry out the following:

13 (A) Establish a program to award grants
14 on a competitive basis to transition research,
15 testing, and experimentation that utilizes an
16 animal to research, testing, and experimen-
17 tation that does not utilize an animal, and not
18 less than one grant under such program shall
19 be awarded to a non-profit rescue or rehabilita-
20 tion organization.

21 (B) For Federal contractors engaging in
22 research, testing, and experimentation that uti-
23 lizes an animal, offer training to such contrac-
24 tors to transition such research, testing, and ex-

1 perimentation to research, testing, and experi-
2 mentation that does not utilize an animal.

3 (C) Establish a program to facilitate col-
4 laboration between entities to expedite any
5 transition of research, testing, and experimen-
6 tation that utilizes an animal to research, test-
7 ing, and experimentation that does not utilize
8 an animal.

9 (D) Establish a program to support the
10 validation and standardization of research, test-
11 ing, and experimentation that does not utilize
12 an animal.

13 (f) ANIMAL RELEASE PROGRAM.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any federally funded re-
15 search facility that has utilized an animal for re-
16 search, testing, and experimentation prohibited
17 under this section shall carry out the following:

18 (A) Not later than one year after the date
19 of the enactment of this section, establish a
20 program to release each such animal to any of
21 the following:

22 (i) An animal rescue organization.

23 (ii) An accredited sanctuary.

24 (iii) A licensed animal shelter.

1 (iv) An individual eligible to receive
2 such animal.

3 (B) In carrying out the program described
4 in subparagraph (A), consult with an accredited
5 sanctuary or a specialist in animal behavioral
6 rehabilitation.

7 (C) Before releasing such animal pursuant
8 to such subparagraph, receive from a licensed
9 veterinarian a certification that states such ani-
10 mal is suitable for release.

11 (D) Not later than 16 months after the
12 date of the enactment of this section and quar-
13 terly thereafter, submit to the Animal and
14 Plant Health Inspection Service of the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture and the Office of Labora-
16 tory Animal Welfare of the National Institutes
17 of Health information relating to the number of
18 animals released pursuant to such subpara-
19 graph.

20 (2) PUBLIC DATABASE.—Not later than 20
21 months after the date of the enactment of this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Director
23 of the National Institutes of Health shall jointly de-
24 velop, maintain not less than quarterly, and make

1 publicly available a database on each animal released
2 pursuant such program.

3 (g) AUDITS.—Not later than one year after the date
4 of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter,
5 the Comptroller General of the United States, in consulta-
6 tion with the personnel of the Animal and Plant Health
7 Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture and
8 the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of the National
9 Institutes of Health, shall carry out the following:

10 (1) Audit each Federal department, Federal
11 agency, Federal contractor, subcontractor, or grant-
12 ee for compliance with this section.

13 (2) Submit a report to Congress on the compli-
14 ance of each such department, agency, contractor,
15 subcontractor, or grantee with this section.

16 (h) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.—Not later than two
17 years after the date of the enactment of this section and
18 annually thereafter, each House of Congress shall hold a
19 hearing on the annual report submitted under subsection
20 (g).

21 (i) CONFLICT.—If a conflict exists between the Ani-
22 mal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.), or the Federal
23 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.),
24 and this section, this section shall apply.

25 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ACCREDITED SANCTUARY.—The term “ac-
2 credited sanctuary” means a facility or organization
3 that satisfies the following requirements:

4 (A) Provides lifetime care and shelter to
5 animals.

6 (B) Maintains animals in a protective envi-
7 ronment without engaging in breeding, commer-
8 cial trade, or for-profit public exhibition.

9 (C) Possesses an accreditation by a nation-
10 ally recognized accrediting body, such as the
11 Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, or
12 another entity designated by the Secretary of
13 Agriculture.

14 (D) Adheres to standards of animal care,
15 including adequate housing, nutrition, and vet-
16 erinary attention, verified through periodic re-
17 views conducted as a condition of such accredi-
18 tation.

19 (2) ANIMAL.—The term “animal” means a liv-
20 ing or dead dog, cat, non-human primate, guinea
21 pig, hamster, rabbit, or other warm-blooded animal
22 that the Secretary of Agriculture designates as being
23 used, or intended to be used, for research, testing,
24 and experimentation, exhibition, or as a pet.

1 (3) ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.—The term
2 “animal rescue organization” means an organization
3 that satisfies the following requirements:

4 (A) Is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
6 from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

7 (B) Is primarily dedicated to the rescue,
8 rehabilitation, and placement of animals into
9 adoptive homes or other suitable environments,
10 including with respect to the following:

11 (i) Taking custody of such animals
12 from research facilities, shelters, or other
13 sources.

14 (ii) Providing necessary care, includ-
15 ing veterinary treatment and socialization,
16 to such animals.

17 (iii) Facilitating the adoption or
18 transfer of such animals to permanent
19 placements.

20 (iv) Maintaining records of the intake,
21 care, and disposition of such animals.

22 (C) Does not engage in the commercial
23 sale or trade of animals.

24 (4) CLINICAL VETERINARY RESEARCH.—The
25 term “clinical veterinary research” means research

1 on a dog or cat with a naturally occurring disease
2 or injury that is conducted—

3 (A) for the benefit of the dog or cat; and

4 (B) with the intention of studying the ef-
5 fect of a procedure, device, or treatment pro-
6 tocol.

7 (5) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means an
8 entity that receives Federal research funds under a
9 grant agreement with a Federal department or agen-
10 cy.

11 (6) LICENSED ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term
12 “licensed animal shelter” means a facility that satis-
13 fies the following requirements:

14 (A) Is operated by or under contract with
15 a State or local government, a duly incor-
16 porated humane society, or an organization de-
17 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
18 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under
19 section 501(a) of such Code.

20 (B) Is licensed or registered under any ap-
21 plicable law to impound, harbor, or care for
22 stray, abandoned, or surrendered animals, in-
23 cluding animals released from research facili-
24 ties.

1 (C) Provides humane care and treatment
2 to such animals.

3 (D) Facilitates the adoption or transfer of
4 such animals to suitable placements.

5 (7) MILITARY ANIMAL.—The term “military
6 animal” has the meaning given the term in section
7 2583 of title 10, United States Code.

8 (8) RESEARCH, TESTING, AND EXPERIMEN-
9 TATION.—The term “research, testing, and experi-
10 mentation” includes any of the following:

11 (A) Basic research.

12 (B) Behavioral research.

13 (C) Infectious disease research.

14 (D) Drug and device development and test-
15 ing.

16 (E) Cosmetic development and testing.

17 (F) Chemical development and testing.

18 (G) Biomedical training.

19 (9) SERVICE ANIMAL.—The term “service ani-
20 mal” has the meaning given the term in section 37.3
21 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

22 (10) SUBCONTRACTOR.—The term “subcon-
23 tractor” means an entity that performs work under

- 1 a subcontract funded by a Federal research grant or
- 2 another Federal contract.

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