

By Senator Bradley

6-00453-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to research animals; creating s.  
3           828.067, F.S.; requiring research facilities to offer  
4           certain dogs and cats for adoption to societies or  
5           associations for the prevention of cruelty to animals  
6           rather than euthanizing such dogs and cats; providing  
7           an exception; authorizing research facilities to enter  
8           into collaborative agreements with such societies and  
9           associations; providing immunity from liability for  
10          research facilities acting in good faith; requiring  
11          research facilities to submit specified annual reports  
12          to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
13          beginning on a specified date; providing penalties;  
14          creating s. 828.068, F.S.; defining terms; requiring  
15          certain publicly funded institutions to make an annual  
16          report concerning animal testing activities; providing  
17          requirements for the report; providing an effective  
18          date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22           Section 1. Section 828.067, Florida Statutes, is created to  
23 read:

24           828.067 Adoption of research dogs and cats.—

25           (1) (a) Before euthanizing a dog or cat that is no longer  
26 needed for laboratory research purposes, a research facility  
27 located in this state shall offer the dog or cat for adoption to  
28 any society or association for the prevention of cruelty to  
29 animals, unless euthanizing the dog or cat is required for

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30 health or safety reasons.

31 (b) A research facility may enter into a collaborative  
32 agreement with a society or association for the prevention of  
33 cruelty to animals for the purpose of carrying out this  
34 subsection.

35 (2) A research facility that offers a dog or cat to a  
36 society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals  
37 pursuant to subsection (1) is immune from civil liability for or  
38 resulting from the transfer of the dog or cat if the research  
39 facility acted in good faith concerning the health and physical  
40 condition of the dog or cat.

41 (3) Beginning January 31, 2025, and each January 31  
42 thereafter, a research facility that uses dogs or cats for  
43 laboratory research shall submit to the Department of  
44 Agriculture and Consumer Services a report that includes the  
45 following information for the preceding year:

46 (a) The total number of dogs and cats owned by the  
47 facility.

48 (b) The total number of dogs and cats used for research  
49 conducted at the facility.

50 (c) The total number of dogs and cats released by the  
51 facility to a society or association for the prevention of  
52 cruelty to animals for the purpose of adoption.

53 (d) The name and address of each society or association for  
54 the prevention of cruelty to animals to which a dog or cat was  
55 released by the facility.

56 (4) A research facility that violates subsection (1) may be  
57 ordered to pay a civil fine of up to \$2,000 per violation in an  
58 action to be brought by the state attorney of the county in

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59 which the violation occurred.

60 Section 2. Section 828.068, Florida Statutes, is created to  
61 read:

62 828.068 Reporting on animal testing.-

63 (1) As used in this section, the term:

64 (a) "Animal" means any live, vertebrate, nonhuman animal.

65 (b) "Animal testing facility" means a facility of a state  
66 agency or institution of higher education that confines and uses  
67 animals for research, education, or testing or other  
68 experimental, scientific, or medical purposes. The term does not  
69 include any facility exclusively engaging in agriculture, as  
70 defined in s. 570.02, or any agricultural education event.

71 (c) "Animal test method" means a process or procedure that  
72 uses animals for research, education, testing, or experimental,  
73 scientific, or biomedical purposes.

74 (d) "Contract testing facility" means any partnership,  
75 corporation, association, or other legal entity that conducts  
76 research, education, testing, or experimental, scientific, or  
77 biomedical studies on behalf of another entity.

78 (2) Each publicly funded animal testing facility, contract  
79 testing facility, or manufacturer that uses an animal test  
80 method shall submit an annual report on or before January 31,  
81 2025, and each January 31 thereafter, for the preceding year to  
82 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in a form  
83 prescribed by the department. The annual report must include all  
84 of the following information:

85 (a) The total number of animals used for research,  
86 education, testing, or experimental, scientific, or biomedical  
87 purpose, with such animals identified and grouped according to

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88 species.

89 (b) The total number of animals per species used for each  
90 of the following purposes:

91 1. Studies of a fundamental nature in science relating to  
92 essential structures, functions, or disease processes.

93 2. Research and development of treatments, products, or  
94 devices for human medicine and dentistry and for veterinary  
95 medicine, excluding toxicological and other safety evaluations  
96 described in subparagraph 3.

97 3. Toxicological and other safety evaluations, including,  
98 but not limited to, safety evaluations of products and devices  
99 for human medicine, human dentistry, and veterinary medicine.

100 4. Quality control of products and devices for human or  
101 veterinary medicine.

102 5. Education and training of scientists or health care  
103 providers.

104 6. Any other purpose not described in this paragraph, to be  
105 specified by the person providing the information required by  
106 this section.

107 (c) A detailed description of the methodology used for  
108 obtaining the counts of animals under paragraphs (a) and (b).

109 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.