



**OPPOSE SB489 – An Act Protecting Research Animals
Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)**

Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

This bill requires a research institution or product testing facility that intends to euthanize or destroy a dog or cat, to offer this animal to an animal shelter or rescue organization for the purpose of placing/rehoming it.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL:

This bill is unnecessary, as the research community has been finding homes for post-study animals without laws requiring such for decades. This requirement takes the decision making from the professional caregivers in research institutions who care deeply for these animals and know them best. The bill reads as disallowing private placement of animals, which prevents facilities from doing direct placement and prevents scientists from becoming long term homes for the animals they have worked with and developed an attachment to.

While similar bills have only spoken to placement of animals, this particular bill does further damage by placing a limitation on actual research. Facilities may not conduct research on a dog or cat for longer than 2 years. This is devastating to long-term research that could otherwise potentially lead to cures to deadly diseases.

This and similar bills are much less focused on the care and retirement of post-study animals but more on showcasing these animals as props to misinform the public about their lives in research. The true agenda is to manipulate public opinion and end the search for treatments and cures from the biomedical profession.

Reference: naiatrust.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners
Julie Rembrandt Seeley; 978-456-8644; jrembrandtseeley@charter.net
Rebecca Leonard, 508-653-6139; 5inWayland@gmail.com

03/24/17

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 936 FILED ON: 1/19/2017

SENATE No. 489

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:
An Act protecting research animals.

PETITION OF:		
NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act protecting research animals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 174D, the following new section:-
Section 174D1/2. Responsibilities of research institutions; adoption of certain dogs and cats

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), a research institution or product testing facility that intends to euthanize or destroy a dog or cat for any purpose other than scientific, medical or educational research shall, before euthanizing or destroying the dog or cat, offer the dog or cat to an animal shelter or rescue organization for adoption. A research institution or product testing facility may enter into a collaborative agreement with an animal shelter or rescue organization for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

(b) A research institution or product testing facility is not required to offer a dog or cat to an animal shelter or rescue organization pursuant to subsection 1 if the dog or cat: (1) manifests a behavioral or temperamental defect that poses a risk to the health and safety of the public; (2) manifests symptoms of a disease, injury, congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, the health of the dog or cat; or (3) is a newborn dog or cat in need of maternal care and has been impounded by the research institution or product testing facility without its mother.

(c) A facility that is required to offer dogs and cats for adoption under this section shall owe no duty of care to any animal shelter or rescue organization that accepts the animal or to any person or entity that may adopt such animals, whether through such organizations or through private placement. No assumption of responsibility or liability for injuries, property damage, or other damages or losses shall be incurred by such research facility on account of the adoption or placement of any dog or cat pursuant to the provisions of this act.

(d) A research institution or product testing facility shall not conduct research on any dog or cat for a period of more than 2 years.

SECTION 2. Section 136A of Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following:-

“Product testing facility”, a facility that is privately owned or funded; or receives public funding, including, but not limited to, any subsidy, grant or tax exemption, either directly or indirectly, through collaboration with an institution of higher education, that is engaged in animal research for scientific, medical, or educational purposes.

“Rescue organization”, a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of rescuing animals in need and finding permanent, adoptive homes for such animals.