



**SUPPORT HB1730 – An Act Relative to Protecting  
Cats and Dogs from Slaughter  
Rep. David Robertson (D)**

Referred to Joint Committee on the Judiciary

This bill fills in a gap that was left a bit vague by the federal bill passed in December 2018. The federal bill “Dog and Cat Meat Prohibition Act” which was signed into law as a provision of the Farm Bill 1 makes it a federal offense to slaughter, trade and import / export dogs and cats for human consumption, a practice that was previously legal in 44 states. This federal bill makes it illegal to generate dog or cat meat for human consumption. HB1730 specifically prohibits the slaughter or consumption of dog and cat meat in the commonwealth, an area that is not specifically prohibited by the federal law.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners**

Mrs. Holly Sheltry Johnson; [holly@hickoryhillkennel.com](mailto:holly@hickoryhillkennel.com); 978-356-1644

Mrs. Rebecca Leonard; [5inWayland@gmail.com](mailto:5inWayland@gmail.com); 508-653-6139

04/02/23

# HOUSE . . . . . No.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***David Allen Robertson***

*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 relative to protecting cats and dogs from slaughter.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                        | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:     | DATE ADDED:      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>David Allen Robertson</i> | <i>19th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/19/2023</i> |

# HOUSE . . . . . No.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to protecting cats and dogs from slaughter.

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

1           Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 77C, as  
2   appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, the following section:-

3           Section 77D. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the  
4   context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5           “Cat”, a living or nonliving specimen of the species *Felis catus*.

6           “Consumption”, the eating or cooking of meat, organs, and other components by humans  
7   or animals from animals slaughtered or recovered.

8           “Dog”, a living or nonliving specimen of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*.

9           “Slaughter”, the killing of an animal for consumption of its meat or byproducts.

10          (b) No person shall possess, import, sell, buy, give away, traffic or accept any dog or cat  
11   for the purpose of slaughter or consumption.

(c) Any person who violates this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 7 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years or by a fine of not more than \$5,000; provided, however, that a second or subsequent offense shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 10 years or by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(d) This section shall not apply to lawful and accepted practices, including but not limited to euthanasia pursuant to section 174A of chapter 140, that relate to veterinary medicine performed by a licensed veterinarian or a certified veterinary technician under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian pursuant to sections 54 to 59A, inclusive, of chapter 112, nor the practice of scientific investigation, experiment or instruction licensed pursuant to section 174D of chapter 140.