



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

2019 Companion Animal Legislation

Promoting Animal Adoption from Rescues and Shelters to Enhance Human Lives and Save Animal Lives

SB 638—Require research laboratories to release dogs and cats no longer needed for research to rescues and shelters so they can be adopted into loving homes.

Why? SB 638 addresses a federal law deficiency by facilitating an open relationship between research laboratories and non-profit animal adoption and rescue organizations. Federal law regulates the care and use of research animals while they are in the laboratory but does not offer any protection to the animal once the research project ends, other than mandating humane euthanasia. Where euthanization is not required, SB 638 would ensure that Oregon's research animals be given an opportunity to live out their lives in loving homes through approved humane societies and shelter organizations.

Benefits? In addition to benefiting the animals, these adoption programs can decrease stress and improve morale among laboratory workers. SB 638 ensures the adoption of research animals is a win-win solution for both lab animals and for the workers who form bonds with these animals.

Background? Several states, including New York, California, and Connecticut have passed similar legislation. What's more, there are several research facilities across the United States that have already instituted successful adoption programs for dogs, cats, and other animals. People who have adopted former research animals can attest to the resilience and affection of these animals once they are given a chance to flourish in a home environment.