



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in Support of SB 638 -2
Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 20, 2019
Submitted on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our Oregon supporters, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SB 638 -2**. The bill would require institutions and facilities that conduct research using cats or dogs for educational, research or scientific purposes, to take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of dogs and cats no longer needed for scientific purposes.

The Humane Society of the United States strongly supports both animal protection and public health. We have active programs to promote what are known as the three Rs: to **reduce** the number of animals used for research purposes; **refine** research so it causes less suffering; and ultimately **replace** animals with non-animal methods that are faster, less expensive and more relevant to human health than animal studies.ⁱ

SB 638 -2 simply provides an opportunity for dogs and cats to live a life in a home as an adopted pet once their time in the laboratory has come to an end—an opportunity that each and every dog and cat deserves. A number of people who have adopted former research dogs and cats can attest to the resilience and affection of these animals once they are given the chance to flourish in a home environment.

Several states, including New York, Minnesota, California and Nevada have passed similar legislation. Additionally, there are a number of research facilities across the United States that have instituted successful adoption programs for dogs, cats and other animals. Importantly, SB 638 -2 ensures that the authority as to when a dog or cat is determined no longer needed for scientific research still rests with the research institutions themselves.

Adoption programs benefit animals and can decrease stress and improve morale among laboratory workers.ⁱⁱ SB 638 -2 is a win-win solution for dogs and cats in Oregon laboratories and the workers who form bonds with these animals.

The Humane Society of the United States urges your support for SB 638.

ⁱ See HSUS statement on animals in biomedical research, testing and education
http://www.humanesociety.org/about/policy_statements/statement_animal_research.html#Uwth76Mo69I

ⁱⁱ Carbone, L. (1996/1997, Winter) Adoption of Research Animals. *AWIC newsletter*, Vol 7 (No. 3-4) Found online at
<https://archive.org/details/CAT10401495023>