



NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY
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Re: SUPPORT of SB 638, which requires research facilities to make available for adoption healthy animals that are no longer needed for research.

Dear Senator Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS), and our Oregon-based supporters, please accept this testimony **in support of SB 638**, a proposal to give healthy animals no longer needed for research a chance to be adopted into loving homes. This is a bill that provides for a compassionate alternative that just makes sense—an otherwise healthy animal once used in research should be made available for adoption instead of facing euthanasia.

Every year, over 100 million animals are used as subjects of scientific and medical research, safety testing and for educational purposes. In 2017, the most recent year for which this data is available, 792,168 animals were used in research, teaching and testing or held for future research, according to data obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2017, 7,947 animals were reportedly used for these purposes by research facilities in Oregon. This number does not take into account mice, rats, birds and fish who are used in research, which accounts for approximately 90% of all animal use.

While this is an enormous number of animals, the importance of adoption over euthanasia is of utmost importance to each of these animals—and only a small percentage of these are likely to be deemed healthy and safe for adoption. Animals that are still considered healthy and safe for adoption would be offered to an animal rescue group to facilitate the adoptions.

Currently, the USDA records on animal use provide only scant information on how these animals are used and their disposition after the research is over. This bill, fortunately, would fill in some of the gaps in information by requiring research facilities to provide an accounting of how many animals they are using and how many are offered to animal rescue groups for adoption each year.

Precedent for this kind of legislative remedy to euthanizing research animals is growing. In 2014, Minnesota passed the first law that requires publicly-funded institutions of higher learning to adopt out their dogs and cats used for research and education instead of routinely euthanizing them when they are no longer needed. Since the Minnesota bill was passed, eight other states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New York and Rhode Island—have adopted similar legislation. Eight more states have introduced similar bills in 2019, including Oregon.

Oregon is unique in considering the welfare of all animals used for research, not simply dogs and cats. This bill is a beacon to what can be done to ensure that animals used in the laboratory—generally to better human health—have a chance at a better life after being released from this service.

A 2015 Gallup poll showed that 67% of Americans were “very” or “somewhat” concerned about animals used for research. The public largely agrees that animals no longer needed for research should be offered for adoption.

All animals deserve to have a chance to live in a home as a cherished companion after spending time in a research facility. This bill would ensure that all healthy animals at research facilities throughout Oregon, now and in the future, will have a chance to be considered for adoption—not as an exception, but as part of the normal process in using these animals.

On behalf of our Oregon supporters, we hope that you vote “yes” in support of SB 638.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia Kramer".

Marcia Kramer
Director of Legal & Legislative Programs