

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3709

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements to support the microchipping of dogs and cats in the care of animal shelters or similar establishments, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2023

Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements to support the microchipping of dogs and cats in the care of animal shelters or similar establishments, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Pets and  
5 Families Together Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT MICRO-**  
2 **CHIPPING OF DOGS AND CATS.**

3 The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is  
4 amended by inserting after section 28 (7 U.S.C. 2158)  
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 28A. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT**  
7 **MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS AND CATS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
9 propriations, the Secretary shall establish a program  
10 under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative  
11 agreements with State and local governments for purposes  
12 of supporting the capability of entities described in sub-  
13 section (b) to provide for microchipping of dogs and cats  
14 in their care before allowing such dogs or cats to be recov-  
15 ered by their original owner, adopted by other individuals,  
16 or transferred to another animal shelter or rescue organi-  
17 zation.

18 “(b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in  
19 this subsection is—

20 “(1) each pound or shelter owned and operated  
21 by a State or a unit of local government; and

22 “(2) each private entity established for the pur-  
23 pose of caring for animals, such as a humane soci-  
24 ety, or other organization that is under contract  
25 with a State or a unit of local government that oper-

1       ates as a pound or shelter and that releases animals  
2       on a voluntary basis.

3       “(c) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEFINED.—In  
4 this section, the term ‘unit of local government’ means a  
5 county, municipality, town, township, village, or other unit  
6 of general government below the State level;

7       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

10 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF MICROCHIPPING**  
11 **PROGRAM.**

12       Not later than December 31, 2028, the Secretary of  
13 Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture  
14 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
15 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-  
16 port that—

17           (1) assesses the effectiveness of the program es-  
18 tablished under section 28A of the Animal Welfare  
19 Act, as added by section 2;

20           (2) contains the Secretary’s recommendation on  
21 whether to extend such program for an additional 5-  
22 fiscal-year period; and

23           (3) the amount of funding necessary to effec-  
24 tively extend such program over such period.

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