

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7958

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Director of the National Institutes of Health from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to a dog or cat, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2024

Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. STEUBE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Director of the National Institutes of Health from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to a dog or cat, 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 “Preventing Animal  
5 Abuse and Waste Act” or the “PAAW Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The National Institutes of Health (in this  
2 section referred to as “NIH”) spends taxpayer dol-  
3 lars to conduct and fund research that causes pain  
4 and distress to dogs and cats.

5           (2) The NIH states that “animal models often  
6 fail to provide good ways to mimic disease or predict  
7 how drugs will work in humans, resulting in much  
8 wasted time and money while patients wait for  
9 therapies”.

10          (3) The NIH often conducts and funds tests on  
11 dogs to assess the safety of experimental human  
12 drugs even though the Food and Drug Administra-  
13 tion has stated, “The FDA does not mandate that  
14 human drugs be studied in dogs.”.

15          (4) The National Academies of Sciences, Engi-  
16 neering, and Medicine has repeatedly found research  
17 on dogs, cats, and other animals that is conducted  
18 and funded by the NIH and other agencies to be un-  
19 necessary.

20          (5) Alternative research methodologies and  
21 other species can replace the use of dogs and cats  
22 in NIH-conducted and funded research.

23          (6) Federal agencies including the Department  
24 of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection  
25 Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration

1 have launched initiatives to reduce and replace test-  
2 ing on dogs and cats, specifically.

3 (7) Existing reporting mechanisms do not pro-  
4 vide adequate information to Congress and tax-  
5 payers about the scale, scope, and cost of dog and  
6 cat use in NIH-conducted and funded research.

7 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH CAUSING SIGNIFICANT**  
8 **PAIN OR DISTRESS TO DOGS AND CATS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 6 of part C of title IV  
10 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285f et seq.)  
11 is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 447E. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH CAUSING SIGNIFI-**  
13 **CANT PAIN OR DISTRESS TO DOGS AND CATS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH may not  
15 conduct or support any research that causes significant  
16 pain or distress to a dog or cat.

17 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘re-  
18 search that causes significant pain or distress’ includes  
19 any study classified in pain category D or E by the De-  
20 partment of Agriculture.”.

21 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-  
22 section (a) applies beginning on the date that is 90 days  
23 after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

2 (a) NIH REPORT ON RESEARCH CAUSING PAIN OR  
3 DISTRESS TO DOGS AND CATS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months  
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
6 thereafter, the Director of the NIH shall publish on  
7 the NIH website, and submit to the Committee on  
8 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-  
9 tives and to the Committee on Health, Education,  
10 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report on the  
11 use of dogs and cats in NIH-conducted and funded  
12 biomedical research.

13 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under  
14 paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered  
15 by the report—

16 (A) a list of all ongoing or prospective re-  
17 search projects that cause significant pain or  
18 distress to a dog or cat and are conducted or  
19 funded by the NIH;

20 (B) for each project—

21 (i) the project title;

22 (ii) the grant or contract number;

23 (iii) the research abstract;

24 (iv) the research location;

25 (v) the cost to taxpayers during the  
26 previous fiscal year and since inception;

1 (vi) the number of dogs or cats used;

2 (vii) the projected start and end

3 dates;

4 (viii) the Department of Agriculture  
5 pain and distress category; and

6 (ix) the amount of funds obligated or  
7 estimated to be obligated for each such  
8 project;

9 (C) an explanation of—

10 (i) efforts to phase out the use of dogs  
11 and cats in research that is conducted or  
12 funded by the NIH; and

13 (ii) any barriers to such phase out;  
14 and

15 (D) the number of dogs and cats retired  
16 and adopted from research conducted or funded  
17 by the NIH.

18 (b) GAO STUDY ON NIH DOG AND CAT RESEARCH  
19 AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE USE OF DOGS AND CATS IN  
20 TESTING.—Not later than one year after the date of en-  
21 actment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
22 States shall submit a report to the Congress that—

23 (1) reviews and summarizes the use of dogs and  
24 cats in research that is conducted or funded by the  
25 NIH;

1           (2) identifies NIH policies and initiatives aimed  
2           at reducing and replacing the specific use of dogs  
3           and cats in research that causes significant pain or  
4           distress and is conducted or funded by the NIH;

5           (3) assesses the effectiveness of any NIH poli-  
6           cies and initiatives aimed at reducing and replacing  
7           the use of dogs and cats in NIH-conducted and  
8           funded research;

9           (4) compares NIH efforts to reduce and replace  
10          dog and cat testing to similar efforts at other Fed-  
11          eral agencies;

12          (5) identifies areas where the NIH can im-  
13          prove—

14                 (A) efforts to reduce and replace the use of  
15                 dogs and cats in research that is conducted or  
16                 funded by the NIH; and

17                 (B) public reporting on progress made;

18          (6) assesses the effectiveness of any NIH poli-  
19          cies and initiatives aimed at retiring and re-homing  
20          dogs and cats no longer needed in research con-  
21          ducted or funded by the NIH;

22          (7) makes recommendations for improving—

23                 (A) the effectiveness of efforts to reduce  
24                 and replace the use of dogs and cats in research  
25                 conducted or funded by the NIH; and

1                   (B) public reporting on progress made;  
2                   and

3                   (8) includes any other matter the Comptroller  
4                   General of the United States determines important  
5                   to assessing and improving NIH's efforts to reduce  
6                   and replace the use of dogs and cats in federally  
7                   funded research that causes significant pain or dis-  
8                   tress.

9                   (c) DEFINITION.—In this section:

10                   (1) The term “NIH” means the National Insti-  
11                   tutes of Health.

12                   (2) The term “research that causes significant  
13                   pain or distress” includes any study classified in  
14                   pain category D or E by the Department of Agri-  
15                   culture.

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