



SB25-085

Adoption of Research Test Subjects

Sponsors: Senator Cathy Kipp, Senator John Carson, Representative Manny Rutinel, Representative Amy Paschal

Dogs and cats may be used to test the safety of drugs, pesticides, medical devices, and other products to determine effects on human health. While federal law regulates the care of dogs and cats while they are in the laboratory, it does not offer any assurance that animals will be protected once the research project ends.

This bill ensures that dogs and cats who have contributed to scientific advancement through service in research have the opportunity to be adopted into loving homes when their role is complete.

- ▶ Research and testing facilities decide which animals are appropriate candidates for adoption, and then must offer them for adoption. They can do this via in-house programs (e.g. to staff or faculty), or in partnership with animal shelters and rescues.
- ▶ Labs continue to have the authority to euthanize any animal based on health or safety concerns or if they are unable to find a placement.
- ▶ Animal shelters and rescues are well-suited to finding the best possible home environment for a retired research animal. Shelters and rescues may choose whether to take these animals; they are not required to.
- ▶ This bill requires facilities to report how many dogs and cats they adopt out each year.

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44,000

average number of dogs used in experiments in the US over the last three years, reported by the USDA.

542 dogs

used for research and testing purposes in Colorado in 2023.

16 states

have passed similar legislation to promote adoption of research animals.