THE RESEARCH ANIMAL ADOPTION BILL AB 147 (DABABNEH)

This is a simple, common-sense, and compassionate proposal to help rescue dogs and cats from tax-payer funded California research laboratories. The legislation would facilitate a relationship between laboratories that use dogs and cats for research purposes and registered non-profit animal rescue organizations so that when the animals are no longer needed THEY CAN BE PLACED UP FOR PUBLIC ADOPTION.

SECTION 1. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

66017.7. (a) Any public postsecondary educational institution or independent institution of higher education, or employee or student thereof, that confines dogs or cats for the purposes set forth in Section 1650 of the Health and Safety Code, shall offer the dogs or cats to an animal adoption organization or animal rescue organization for adoption prior to euthanizing those animals, after the completion of any testing or research where the animal's destruction is not required and the animal is no longer needed. A public postsecondary educational institution or independent institution of higher education that is required to offer dogs or cats to an animal adoption organization or animal rescue organization under this section may enter into an agreement with an animal adoption organization or animal rescue organization for the implementation of this section.

DEFICIENCY OF LAW

The law is needed because there exists no guideline or policy covering this aspect of laboratory animal welfare. Current federal and state legislation offers an array of regulations concerning the research animal’s bedding, food, water access, enrichment devices, and pain management. All aspects of a research animal’s life is subject to policy prescriptions except for what happens to the animal after the research ends.

SADLY MANY RESEARCH DOGS AND CATS ARE SUMMARILY EUTHANIZED AT THE END OF THE TESTING EVEN IF THEY ARE HEALTHY.

If a dog or cat is adopted it is usually at the individual discretion and volunteer time of a laboratory worker. There exists no mechanism for California citizens to adopt one these dogs or cats for which their tax-dollars pay.
THE RESEARCH ANIMAL ADOPTION BILL

THE MAJORITY OF THE DOGS USED IN RESEARCH LABORATORIES ARE BEAGLES

Beagles are the breed of choice for the same personality traits that make them great family additions: they are docile, people-pleasing, forgiving, and easy to care for. This legislation has already been passed into law and successfully implemented in Minnesota. The University of Minnesota’s Research Animal Resources department has partnered with the Animal Humane Society in compliance with the law to find opportunities to help many dogs and cats.

SEVERAL OTHER STATES ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THIS SAME LEGISLATION TO OFFER HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY TO THEIR RESEARCH DOGS AND CATS.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

- This bill provides an opportunity to bridge the differences between people over the controversial issue of animal-testing in a very reasonable manner. It allows everyone to work together for the sake of helping these dogs and cats.
- This bill allows for the waiver of all liability from the research laboratory and offers them protection with complete confidentiality if they so choose.
- This bill simply asks that the University of California and other tax-payer funded laboratories make a good faith effort at contacting relevant local animal rescue organizations to do adoption work. If those organizations cannot place the dog or cat, the research laboratory is free to euthanize them as they would have otherwise.
- This bill would allow California to demonstrate that it sets the gold-standard for research ethics and animal welfare.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES NOT DO:

- This bill does not regulate or interfere with the research process.
- This bill leaves the discretion to the research professionals to determine if a dog or cat is needed for additional studies or is healthy enough for adoption.
- This bill does not force the labs to release sick, injured, or suffering animals.
- This bill does not require the research laboratory to assume any extra costs, provide transportation, veterinary care, or screening of applicants.

CHIEF AUTHOR OF AB:147
ASSEMBLY MEMBER MATTHEW DABABNEH

CO-AUTHORS
ASSEMBLY MEMBER MARIE WALDRON
ASSEMBLY MEMBER ERIC LINDER
SENATOR MARK LENO