

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3246

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2025

Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. MENG, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. TRAN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHU, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. KIM, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. PERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals used in Federal research, 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 “Violet’s Law”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS USED IN FEDERAL RE-**
2 **SEARCH.**

3 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
4 2144) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 14. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

6 “(a) **LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES.**—Any de-
7 partment, agency, or instrumentality of the United States
8 having laboratory animal facilities shall comply with the
9 standards and other requirements promulgated by the
10 Secretary under sections 13(a), (f), (g), and (h).

11 “(b) **ADOPTION AND NON-LABORATORY PLACE-**
12 **MENT.**—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of
13 the United States operating as a Federal research facility
14 shall, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this subsection, promulgate standards and other
16 requirements that, in the determination of the depart-
17 ment, agency, or instrumentality, facilitates the adoption
18 or non-laboratory placement of any eligible animal of the
19 facility no longer needed for research and determined to
20 be suitable for release to an animal rescue organization,
21 animal sanctuary, animal shelter, or individual.

22 “(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

23 “(1) **ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.**—The
24 term ‘animal rescue organization’ means an organi-
25 zation—

1 “(A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
2 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
3 from taxation under section 501(a) of such
4 Code; and

5 “(B) with the purpose of rescuing animals
6 that are unwanted, abandoned, or otherwise in
7 need of placement and finding permanent adop-
8 tive homes for such animals.

9 “(2) ANIMAL SANCTUARY.—The term ‘animal
10 sanctuary’ means an organization described in sec-
11 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
12 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of
13 such Code that—

14 “(A) is registered with the Secretary;

15 “(B) operates a place of refuge—

16 “(i) where an unwanted, displaced, or
17 retired animal is provided care for the life-
18 time of such animal; and

19 “(ii) where an unescorted public visi-
20 tation of such an animal is not permitted;

21 “(C) does not engage in commercial trade
22 of such an animal;

23 “(D) does not breed such an animal;

24 “(E) does not permit direct contact be-
25 tween the public and such an animal;

1 “(F) does not allow the use of such an ani-
2 mal for performance or exhibition purposes; and

3 “(G) does not conduct research that pains
4 or distresses such an animal.

5 “(3) ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term ‘animal
6 shelter’ means a facility that accepts or seizes ani-
7 mals to care for such animals, place such animals in
8 a permanent adoptive home, or carry out law en-
9 forcement purposes.

10 “(4) ELIGIBLE ANIMAL.—The term ‘eligible
11 animal’ means any dog, cat, nonhuman primate,
12 guinea pig, hamster, or rabbit.

13 “(5) SUITABLE FOR RELEASE.—The term ‘suit-
14 able for release’ means an eligible animal that has
15 been evaluated and has received a certificate issued
16 by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary
17 medicine, certifying that they inspected the eligible
18 animal on a specified date that is not more than ten
19 days before such animal is released, and when so in-
20 spected, the eligible animal appeared free of any in-
21 fectious disease or physical abnormality which would
22 endanger the eligible animal, other animals, or pub-
23 lic health.”.

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