

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6716

To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in rural areas, 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 “Save Animals Through  
5 Operational Shelters Act of 2025” or the “SATOS Act  
6 of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Rural communities often lack adequate in-  
 2           frastructure (including animal shelters and veteri-  
 3           nary care facilities) to support animal welfare.

4           (2) Associations, units of general local govern-  
 5           ment, nonprofit corporations, and Indian Tribes play  
 6           a critical role in promoting the health, safety, and  
 7           humane treatment of animals.

8           (3) Investment in animal care facilities contrib-  
 9           utes to public health, safety, and community well-  
 10          being.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL CARE**  
 12 **FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.**

13          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
 14 a program to provide a grant or loan to an eligible enti-  
 15 ty—

16           (1) to construct, expand, or renovate a facility  
 17          in a rural area for—

- 18                   (A) an animal shelter;
- 19                   (B) an animal adoption center;
- 20                   (C) a veterinary care clinic;
- 21                   (D) a spay and neuter clinic;
- 22                   (E) an animal control operation; or
- 23                   (F) an emergency animal shelter; or

24           (2) to purchase or install equipment, fur-  
 25          nishings, vehicles, or technology for such a facility.

1 (b) TERMS OF GRANT.—

2 (1) AMOUNT.—The total amount that may be  
3 provided as grants under subsection (a) for a fiscal  
4 year may not exceed \$10,000,000.

5 (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
7 subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall,  
8 by rule, establish the amount of the Federal  
9 share of the cost of developing a facility pursu-  
10 ant to a grant under subsection (a).

11 (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a  
12 grant provided under subsection (a) for a facil-  
13 ity may not exceed 75 percent of the cost of de-  
14 veloping such facility.

15 (C) GRADUATED SCALE.—The Secretary  
16 shall establish a graduated scale for the amount  
17 of the Federal share provided under this para-  
18 graph, with a greater Federal share, not more  
19 than the maximum amount described in sub-  
20 paragraph (B), for a facility located in a com-  
21 munity that has a lesser population or income  
22 level, as determined by the Secretary.

23 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a  
2           grant to an eligible entity to procure technical assist-  
3           ance and training to—

4                   (A) assist such eligible entity in identifying  
5                   and planning for the needs of a facility devel-  
6                   oped pursuant to a grant or loan under sub-  
7                   section (a);

8                   (B) identify resources to finance the needs  
9                   of such a facility;

10                  (C) prepare a report or survey to be in-  
11                  cluded in an application for a grant or loan  
12                  under subsection (a);

13                  (D) prepare an application for such grant  
14                  or loan;

15                  (E) improve the administration, including  
16                  financial administration, of such a facility; and

17                  (F) assist with any other area of need, as  
18                  identified by the Secretary, relating to the ad-  
19                  ministration of—

20                           (i) such a facility; or

21                           (ii) a grant or loan under subsection

22                           (a).

23           (2) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting a re-  
24           cipient of a grant under this subsection, the Sec-  
25           retary shall give priority to an eligible entity that

1       has experience in the planning, design, operation, or  
2       management of a facility described in subsection  
3       (a)(1), as demonstrated in the application for such  
4       grant submitted by such eligible entity.

5           (3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 nor more than  
6       5 percent of any funds appropriated to carry out  
7       this section for a fiscal year shall be reserved for  
8       grants under this subsection.

9       (d) RULE MAKING.—Within 180 days after the date  
10      of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a rule  
11      to carry out this section.

12      (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Within 1 year after the date  
13      of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin pro-  
14      viding grants and loans under subsection (a).

15      (f) REPORTS.—Within 2 years after the date of en-  
16      actment of this Act, and not less frequently than every  
17      2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
18      mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and  
19      the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of  
20      the Senate a report describing—

21           (1) the amount of grants and loans provided  
22           under subsections (a) and (c);

23           (2) the geographic distribution of the recipients  
24           of such grants and loans;

1           (3) the outcomes achieved by such grants and  
2       loans; and

3           (4) any recommendations for improving the ef-  
4       fectiveness of the program established under sub-  
5       section (a).

6       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) The term “domestic animal” means an ani-  
8       mal, including a dog, cat, guinea pig, hamster, rab-  
9       bit, or bird, that is not kept by the owner for any  
10      commercial purpose.

11          (2) The term “eligible entity” means—

12                (A) a State, local, or Tribal government or  
13                an agency thereof; or

14                (B) a nonprofit corporation.

15          (3) The term “rural area” means any area  
16      other than—

17                (A) a city or town that has a population of  
18                greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

19                (B) the urbanized area contiguous and ad-  
20                jacent to such a city or town.

21          (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
22      of Agriculture, acting through the Under Secretary  
23      of Agriculture for Rural Development.

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