

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
State of Illinois  
2015 and 2016  
HB4297

Introduced , by Rep. Margo McDermed

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Research Dogs and Cats Adoption Act. Requires (i) an institution of higher education located in this State that receives public funds for scientific, educational, or research purposes or (ii) a facility that provides research in collaboration with an institution of higher education with the use of public funds and that confines dogs or cats for scientific, educational, or research purposes and plans on euthanizing the dog or cat for other than scientific, educational, or research purposes must first offer the dog or cat to an animal rescue organization. Provides exceptions. Sets forth provisions concerning an agreement with an animal rescue organization and immunity.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY  
APPLY

**A BILL FOR**

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1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Research Dogs and Cats Adoption Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Animal rescue organization" means any nonprofit  
8 organization incorporated for the purpose of rescuing animals  
9

in need and finding permanent, adoptive homes for the animals.

10 "Research facility" means an institution of higher  
11 education located in this State that receives public funds for  
12 scientific, educational, or research purposes or a facility  
13 that provides research in collaboration with an institution of  
14 higher education with the use of public funds.

15 Section 10. Research dogs and cats adoption requirement.

16 (a) A research facility that confines dogs or cats for  
17 scientific, educational, or research purposes and plans on  
18 euthanizing the dog or cat for other than scientific,  
19 educational, or research purposes must first offer the dog or  
20 cat to an animal rescue organization.

21 (b) A research facility that is required to offer dogs or  
22 cats to an animal rescue organization under this Section may

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1 enter into an agreement with the animal rescue organization to  
2 protect the research facility from liability.

3 (c) A research facility that provides a dog or cat to an  
4 animal rescue organization under this Section is immune from  
5 any civil liability that otherwise might result from the  
6 research facility's actions, provided that the research  
7 facility is acting in good faith.

8 Section 15. Exceptions. Section 10 of this Act does not  
9 apply if any of the following occurs:

10 (1) The dog or cat has a behavioral or temperamental  
11 defect that poses a risk to the public.

12 (2) The dog or cat has symptoms of a disease, injury,  
13 or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health  
14 of the dog or cat.

15 (3) The dog or cat is in need of maternal care and has  
16 been impounded without its mother.