



March 20, 2015
Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0440

Re: Please SUPPORT House Bill 5707, adoption of dogs and cats used in research facilities; standards for proper sheltering of dogs.

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, we submit this letter to **SUPPORT H.B. 5707**, which would 1) require research institutions in Connecticut who are using cats and dogs in research to offer those animals to qualified animal adoption and rescue organizations prior to euthanizing them at the end of their research tenure, and 2) require proper shelter for dogs.

Federal law regulates the care and use of research animals while they are in the laboratory, including bedding, food, water access, enrichment devices, and pain management, but does not offer any protection to the animal once the research project ends, other than in regards to mandating a humane euthanasia. H.B. 5707 addresses this deficiency by facilitating an open relationship between research laboratories and non-profit animal adoption and rescue organizations.

There is simply no reason to euthanize healthy cats and dogs if an adoption or rescue group is willing to take those animals and find them loving families. H.B. 5707 provides the chance for dogs and cats to live a life in a home as an adopted pet once retired from research—an opportunity that each and every dog and cat deserves. There are a number of research facilities across the United States that have instituted successful adoption programs for dogs, cats, and other animals.¹ Adoption programs, in addition to benefiting the animals, can decrease stress and improve morale among laboratory workers.² H.B. 5707 is a win-win solution for dogs and cats in Connecticut laboratories and the workers who form bonds with these animals.

We also strongly support language within this bill, precisely as written in LCO 4965, that would establish standards for the provision of proper shelter for dogs.

Yours truly,

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¹ Examples include: University of Florida, University of Kentucky, University of Illinois, University of Tennessee, Clemson University, Ridgewater College (MN), Duke University, University of Georgia – College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University – College of Veterinary Medicine.

² Carbone, L. (1996/1997, Winter) Adoption of Research Animals. *AWIC newsletter*, Vol 7 (No. 3-4) Found online at <https://archive.org/details/CAT10401495023>