

The Honorable Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senators _____
The U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative _____ and

Senators _____ :

As a constituent who cares about animal protection laws, I am dismayed the **Pet Safety and Protection Act** has been introduced in the Senate and House every congressional session for the last decade. What will it take to enact this essential safety net for dogs and cats?

H.R. 1280 and S. 714 assure animals sold to medical research facilities are acquired legally. The Pet Safety and Protection Act (PSPA) inhibits use of stray and pound animals. It curtails Class "B" dealers and "bunchers who acquire animals from random sources such as shelters, "free to a good home" ads, or pet theft. The PSPA also fines research facilities \$1,000 for experimenting upon dogs or cats attained outside the legal means stipulated in the bill.

I respectfully ask my Representative and Senators to advocate passage of the Pet Safety and Protection Act (H.R. 1280/S. 714).

Class B dealers, who profit from contracts with research labs, amass dogs and cats from "random sources." They routinely falsify health certificates and do not maintain verifiable records on the acquisition or disposition of their animals. Many employ "bunchers" to steal companion animals or round up strays. Some animals are attained fraudulently from "free to a good home" ads. Experimenters cannot distinguish between legally obtained animals and those procured via theft or fraud. Moreover, the research industry is not required to patrol animal dealers.

Since the term "random source" was legalized in 1996, interstate traffic in stolen animals has flourished. Weak laws let dealers sell animals of suspect origin to researchers, illegal dogfighters, breeders, and the meat and fur trades. The Pet Safety and Protection Act fortifies the Animal Welfare Act and empowers the USDA to prevent dealers from inflicting untold pain upon animals and the people who love them.

Please help bring H.R. 1280 and S. 714 to a vote and passage. I am very interested to know your stance on this legislation and look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,