

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:

Congress can help save thousands of companion animals like Bo Obama (or like your own furry family members) by proposing legislation that outlaws the sale of random source animals to biomedical research, product testing and education. Your swift action can spare cats and dogs from invasive surgeries, toxic dosing, pain, loneliness and death inside a laboratory.

Controversial class B dealers buy animals from shelters (pound seizure), free-to-good-home ads, and other “random sources” for lucrative sale to research facilities. Some employ “bunchers” to steal dogs from yards and cars. Any shelter that engages in pound seizure with a Class B dealer has forsaken its role as a refuge for lost or surrendered animals.

I respectfully ask you to introduce legislation that ends the sale and shipment of “pets” to research centers nationwide. In a recent study from AnimaLearn, a nonprofit working with teachers and students to achieve quality humane science education, 52% of reviewed universities utilize dogs and cats in life science, veterinary, and medical instruction.

This is astonishingly irresponsible, given strides in in-vitro cell technology, computer automation, and innovations such as the simulated immune system Modular Immune In Vitro Construct (MIMIC). Old-fashioned animal research keeps the U.S. out of sync with global progress.

Researchers at Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and elsewhere have begun to replace animals with complex microtissues made from cultured cells. Brown’s Jeffrey R. Morgan, medical science and engineering professor, led a team that assembled cells three-dimensionally to replicate live human organs. This human-centric approach not only yields data more relevant to people, but also cuts costs to confine, feed, dissect and discard animals.

Random source Class B dealers are notoriously inhumane, yet our laws let them profit from the misery of gentle animals. Congress not only has the power to shut them down, but to also restrict the publicly despised practice of pound seizure. I strongly urge you to advocate legislation that protects companion animals by banning class B dealers and pound seizure.

Thank you,