
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 381 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, COMMITTA, FONTANA, BROOKS, PHILLIPS-HILL
AND SCHWANK, MARCH 6, 2025

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 6, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 35 (Health and
2 Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in riot,
3 disorderly conduct and related offenses, further providing
4 for nonapplicability of subchapter; in public safety,
5 prohibiting certain animal experimentation, sale and testing
6 and providing for whistleblower protection; and imposing
7 penalties.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 5561(b)(6) introductory paragraph of
11 Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
12 read:

13 § 5561. Nonapplicability of subchapter.

14 * * *

15 (b) Exemptions.--The provisions of this subchapter shall not
16 apply to the following:

17 * * *

18 (6) Conduct relating to animals actively involved in a
19 bona fide scientific or medical research that is lawful under
20 the laws of the United States or this Commonwealth relating

1 to activities undertaken by a research facility that is one
2 of the following:

3 * * *

4 Section 2. Title 35 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

5 CHAPTER 58A
6 ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION, SALE
7 AND CERTAIN TESTING PROHIBITED

8 Subchapter

9 A. Experimentation

10 B. Sale

11 C. Certain Testing Prohibited

12 SUBCHAPTER A
13 EXPERIMENTATION

14 Sec.

15 58A01. Definitions.

16 58A02. Prohibiting Commonwealth funding for painful animal
17 subject experimentation.

18 58A03. Prohibiting Commonwealth funding for animal subject
19 devocalization.

20 58A04. Animal testing facilities and adoption of animal
21 subjects.

22 58A05. Disclosure requirements.

23 58A06. Penalty.

24 58A07. Annual report by State Treasurer.

25 58A08. Annual report by recipients of Commonwealth funds.

26 § 58A01. Definitions.

27 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
28 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
29 context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Animal subject." A dog or a cat.

1 "Animal testing facility." A facility, including a private
2 entity, State agency or institution of higher education, that
3 confines and uses animal subjects for research, education,
4 testing or other scientific or medical purposes.

5 "Commonwealth funds." Money of a fund or account in the
6 State Treasury of the Commonwealth.

7 "Devocalization." The process of performing a surgical
8 procedure to cut, notch, punch, abrade, laser, suture or
9 otherwise physically alter the vocal apparatus of an animal
10 subject with the intent of altering, reducing or eliminating
11 vocal sounds produced by the animal subject.

12 "Devocalize." The term includes debarking, devoicing,
13 silencing, ventriculocordectomy, vocal cordectomy, bark
14 reduction and bark softening.

15 "Medically unnecessary." Not carried out solely for the
16 better health, welfare or safety of an animal subject.

17 "Recipient of Commonwealth funds." A person, including a
18 public or private entity, to whom Commonwealth funds are paid.
19 § 58A02. Prohibiting Commonwealth funding for painful animal
20 subject experimentation.

21 (a) Use of funds.--A recipient of Commonwealth funds is
22 prohibited from using the Commonwealth funds to directly support
23 medically unnecessary research on animal subjects that is
24 classified under pain and distress categories "D" or "E" by the
25 United States Department of Agriculture.

26 (b) Applicability.--Subsection (a) does not apply to the
27 direct funding of research for the construction or maintenance
28 of facilities, the purchase or maintenance of general-use
29 equipment, overhead costs, capital improvements or faculty or
30 employee salaries.

1 § 58A03. Prohibiting Commonwealth funding for animal subject
2 devocalization.

3 A recipient of Commonwealth funds is prohibited from using
4 Commonwealth funds to devocalize an animal subject, to procure
5 for use an animal subject that has undergone devocalization or
6 to conduct research on animal subjects that have undergone
7 devocalization.

8 § 58A04. Animal testing facilities and adoption of animal
9 subjects.

10 (a) Requirements.--An animal testing facility that receives
11 Commonwealth funds and no longer has need of an animal subject
12 in its possession shall, provided that doing so does not pose a
13 risk to the health or safety of the public or the welfare of the
14 animal subject:

15 (1) offer the animal subject for release to a releasing
16 agency for eventual adoption or for adoption through a
17 private placement; or

18 (2) if the testing facility is operated by an agency or
19 institution of higher education, develop its own adoption
20 program, provided that the program maintains records that
21 comply with 3 Pa.C.S. § 2349 (relating to records and
22 inspections).

23 (b) Manner of release.--

24 (1) The animal testing facility shall keep an offer for
25 release open for a reasonable length of time for a duration
26 of not less than 21 days, prior to euthanizing an animal
27 subject.

28 (2) The animal testing facility may enter into an
29 agreement with a releasing agency for compliance with this
30 section.

1 (c) Immunity.--An animal testing facility shall not be
2 liable for harm caused by or a defect suffered by an animal
3 subject placed, in good faith, for adoption in compliance with
4 this section.

5 § 58A05. Disclosure requirements.

6 (a) Clear language.--A person that submits to a Commonwealth
7 agency a proposal in response to a request for proposal or bid
8 in response to an invitation for bids relating to a project or
9 program that involves animal subjects and is to be financed by
10 Commonwealth funds, shall clearly state in the proposal or bid:

11 (1) The percentage of the total costs of the program or
12 project to be financed with Commonwealth funds.

13 (2) The dollar amount of Commonwealth funds for the
14 project or program.

15 (3) The percentage and dollar amount of the total costs
16 of the project or program that will be financed by
17 nongovernmental sources.

18 (b) Disclosure in other records.--The duty in subsection (a)
19 shall include a press release or other record of the person that
20 identifies the project or program.

21 § 58A06. Penalty.

22 A person that has a duty under this subchapter and fails to
23 comply with the duty may not receive Commonwealth funds for a
24 period of one year from the date of the noncompliance.

25 § 58A07. Annual report by State Treasurer.

26 (a) Duty of State Treasurer.--Not later than 180 days after
27 the effective date of this section and each March 1 thereafter,
28 the State Treasurer shall submit a report to the President pro
29 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives and shall post the report on the Treasury

1 Department's publicly accessible Internet website. The report
2 shall cover the prior calendar year. The report shall include
3 the following information:

4 (1) The total amount of Commonwealth funds expended to
5 support animal research during the calendar year.

6 (2) A list of active animal research projects for which
7 Commonwealth funds were expended, including project titles,
8 animal species, number of animals, calendar year cost, the
9 total cost to date and the start and end date of the
10 expenditure.

11 (3) A list of the names and business addresses of the
12 recipients of Commonwealth funding for the animal research
13 projects.

14 (b) Duty of Commonwealth agencies to cooperate.--The State
15 Treasurer may request that a Commonwealth agency provide
16 information deemed necessary by the State Treasurer to carry out
17 the duty under subsection (a), and the Commonwealth agency shall
18 cooperate with the State Treasurer by providing the information
19 requested.

20 § 58A08. Annual report by recipients of Commonwealth funds.

21 An institution of higher education, whether public or
22 private, in this Commonwealth that is a recipient of
23 Commonwealth funds and uses animal subjects or other animals in
24 research shall post on its publicly accessible Internet website,
25 not later than April 1, 2026, a written report on animal
26 research conducted on the animal subjects and other animals
27 during the course of the prior calendar year. The report shall
28 be posted in a conspicuous and easily accessible manner so that
29 the public can access a copy of the report electronically. The
30 written report shall contain the following:

1 (1) The total amount of money expended for animal
2 research by the institution during the preceding calendar
3 year, itemized by Federal, State, private and other revenue
4 sources.

5 (2) A list of active animal research projects, including
6 project titles, the department of the institution conducting
7 the research, species of animals, number of animals, calendar
8 year cost, total cost to date, funding source and the start
9 and end date of the project.

10 (3) A review of compliance with 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54
11 (relating to transportation, sale, and handling of certain
12 animals), the United States Public Health Policy on Humane
13 Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and other applicable
14 Federal, State and local law, regulations and policies
15 governing animal research. The review shall include an
16 explanation of any animal research noncompliance documented
17 during the preceding calendar year and corrective actions
18 taken in each case.

19 (4) The number of animals by species adopted out from
20 research laboratories during the preceding calendar year to
21 animal shelters or to animal rescue organizations, and the
22 number of animals euthanized by the institution.

23 (5) Current roster for any institutional animal care and
24 use committee within the institution.

25 (6) A detailed explanation of specific efforts by the
26 institution to refine, reduce and replace the use of animals
27 in research during the preceding calendar year. The
28 explanation shall include the number of animals by species
29 used in research each year for the past three calendar years
30 and anticipated numbers in the next calendar year. The use of

1 animals in research shall include animals used in scientific
2 research, in testing and for experimentation purposes.

3 SUBCHAPTER B

4 SALE

5 Sec.

6 58A11. Scope of subchapter.

7 58A12. Definitions.

8 58A13. Prohibition on sale of dogs and cats bred by certain
9 persons.

10 58A14. Duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities
11 to offer dogs and cats for adoption.

12 58A15. General powers of secretary.

13 58A16. Recordkeeping requirements for persons and kennels
14 engaged in the raising of dogs or cats for research
15 purposes.

16 58A17. Whistleblower protection.

17 58A18. Annual report.

18 58A19. Penalties.

19 58A20. Regulations.

20 § 58A11. Scope of subchapter.

21 This subchapter relates to the protection of dogs and cats.

22 § 58A12. Definitions.

23 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
25 context clearly indicates otherwise:

26 "Animal testing facility." A facility, including a private
27 entity, State agency or an institution of higher education, that
28 confines and uses dogs or cats for research, education, testing
29 or other scientific or medical purposes. The term shall include
30 any of the following:

1 (1) A kennel or facility subject to the Public Health
2 Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
3 provided for under 42 U.S.C. Ch. 6A (relating to public
4 health service).

5 (2) A kennel or facility subject to the provisions of 21
6 CFR Pt. 58 (relating to good laboratory practice for
7 nonclinical laboratory studies), 21 U.S.C. Ch. 9 (relating to
8 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) or 42 U.S.C. Ch. 6A.

9 (3) A research kennel licensed under the Dog law.

10 "Dealer." A person who in the regular course of business for
11 compensation or profit buys, sells, transfers, exchanges or
12 barters dogs and cats. The term does not include any of the
13 following:

14 (1) A person who transports companion animals in the
15 regular course of business as a common carrier.

16 (2) A person whose primary purpose is to find permanent
17 adoptive homes for companion animals.

18 "Department." The Department of Agriculture of the
19 Commonwealth.

20 "Dog Law." The act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
21 known as the Dog Law.

22 "Kennel." As defined in section 102 of the Dog Law.

23 "Police officer." As defined in section 102 of the Dog Law.

24 "Releasing agency." As defined in section 901-A of the Dog
25 Law.

26 "Research." As defined in section 102 of the Dog Law.

27 "Research kennel." As defined in section 102 of the Dog Law.

28 "State dog warden." As defined in section 102 of the Dog
29 Law.

30 § 58A13. Prohibition on sale of dogs and cats bred by certain

1 persons.

2 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 908 of the Dog Law,
3 a dealer or kennel may not sell or offer for sale, including a
4 sale for research purposes, a dog or cat bred by a person who
5 has received any of the following from the United States
6 Department of Agriculture as authorized under 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54
7 (relating to transportation, sale, and handling of certain
8 animals) or relevant regulations:

9 (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or
10 citations for three or more indirect or noncritical
11 violations during the two-year period before the procurement
12 of the dog or cat.

13 (2) Two consecutive citations for no access to a housing
14 facility before the procurement of the dog or cat.

15 § 58A14. Duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities
16 to offer dogs and cats for adoption.

17 (a) Duties.--

18 (1) If any person, kennel or animal testing facility
19 specified under paragraph (2) does not have a need for a dog
20 or cat in its possession and the dog or cat does not pose a
21 health or safety risk to the public or the welfare of the dog
22 or cat, the person, kennel or animal testing facility shall
23 offer for release the dog or cat to a releasing agency for
24 eventual adoption or for adoption through a private
25 placement. In the case of an animal testing facility operated
26 by a State agency or an institution of higher education, the
27 animal testing facility may develop its own adoption program.

28 (2) Paragraph (1) shall apply only to the following:

29 (i) A person who raises cats regulated under Federal
30 law as research animals or sells or transfers cats to an

1 animal testing facility.

2 (ii) A kennel that breeds dogs regulated under
3 Federal law as research animals.

4 (iii) A kennel that sells or transfers dogs to an
5 animal testing facility or a research kennel.

6 (iv) An animal testing facility.

7 (3) Any person, kennel or animal testing facility
8 subject to this subsection shall keep the offer for release
9 under paragraph (1) available for a reasonable period of time
10 for a duration of no less than 21 days before euthanizing a
11 dog or cat specified under paragraph (1).

12 (b) Implementation.--Any person, kennel or animal testing
13 facility under subsection (a) may enter into an agreement with a
14 releasing agency to implement the requirements under subsection
15 (a).

16 (c) Liability.--Any person, kennel or animal testing
17 facility under subsection (a) shall not be liable for harm
18 caused by or a defect suffered by a dog or cat placed, in good
19 faith, for adoption in compliance with subsection (a).

20 (d) Annual reports.--Any person, kennel or animal testing
21 facility under subsection (a) shall annually submit a report to
22 the department stating the number of dogs and cats that were
23 adopted under subsection (a) and the name of each releasing
24 agency utilized by the person, kennel or animal testing
25 facility.

26 § 58A15. General powers of secretary.

27 In addition to the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture
28 under section 211 of the Dog Law, the secretary shall revoke a
29 kennel license, dealer license or out-of-State dealer license if
30 a licensee is convicted of a violation of 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54

1 (relating to transportation, sale, and handling of certain
2 animals) or 18 U.S.C. § 48 (relating to animal crushing).
3 § 58A16. Recordkeeping requirements for persons and kennels
4 engaged in the raising of dogs or cats for research
5 purposes.

6 (a) Requirements.--

7 (1) A person or kennel specified under paragraph (2) and
8 engaged in the raising of dogs or cats for research purposes
9 shall keep accurate records of all of the following:

10 (i) A dog or cat purchased, acquired, owned, held or
11 otherwise in the possession or control of the person or
12 kennel.

13 (ii) A dog or cat transported, euthanized, sold or
14 otherwise disposed of during the two-year period from the
15 date of the purchase, acquisition, transfer or
16 disposition of the dog or cat.

17 (2) Paragraph (1) shall apply only to the following:

18 (i) A person who raises cats regulated under Federal
19 law as research animals or sells or transfers cats to an
20 animal testing facility.

21 (ii) A kennel that breeds dogs regulated under
22 Federal law as research animals.

23 (iii) A kennel that sells or transfers dogs to an
24 animal testing facility or a research kennel.

25 (b) Records.--The records under subsection (a) shall include
26 all of the following:

27 (1) The name and address of the person from whom a dog
28 or cat was purchased or acquired and the person's license or
29 registration number if the person is licensed or registered
30 under 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54 (relating to transportation, sale, and

1 handling of certain animals).

2 (2) The date on which a dog or cat was purchased or
3 acquired.

4 (3) The name and address of the person to whom a dog or
5 cat was sold, given or transferred and the person's license
6 or registration number if the person is licensed or
7 registered under 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54.

8 (4) The official United States Department of
9 Agriculture's tag number or tattoo assigned to a dog or cat
10 under 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54.

11 (5) A description of a dog or cat, including all of the
12 following:

13 (i) The species and breed or type.

14 (ii) The sex.

15 (iii) The date of birth or approximate age.

16 (iv) The color and distinctive markings.

17 (6) The date and number of offspring born of a dog or
18 cat while in the possession or under the control of the
19 person or kennel under subsection (a).

20 (7) Medical care and vaccinations provided to a dog or
21 cat.

22 (8) The date and method of disposition of a dog or cat,
23 including the sale, death and cause of death of the dog or
24 cat if the disposition is not euthanasia, adoption or
25 transfer.

26 (9) The number of dogs or cats in the possession of the
27 person or kennel under subsection (a) that the person or
28 kennel does not need.

29 (10) The number of dogs or cats described under
30 paragraph (9) that have been offered for transfer to a

1 releasing agency for eventual adoption or for adoption
2 through private placement.

3 (c) Inspections.--A person or kennel under subsection (a)
4 shall ensure that the records under subsection (a) are legible
5 and the records shall be open to inspection and may be copied by
6 an employee of the department, State dog warden or police
7 officer.

8 (d) Submission.--A person or kennel under subsection (a)
9 shall annually submit a summary of the records under subsection
10 (a) to the department in a form determined by the department.

11 § 58A17. Whistleblower protection.

12 An employee of any person, dealer, kennel, animal testing
13 facility, private entity, State agency or institution of higher
14 education subject to this subchapter shall be deemed to be an
15 employee under the act of December 12, 1986 (P.L.1559, No.169),
16 known as the Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith
17 report of a potential violation of this subchapter, the Dog Law
18 or 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54 (relating to transportation, sale, and
19 handling of certain animals). Any dealer, kennel, animal testing
20 facility, private entity, State agency or institution of higher
21 education subject to this subchapter shall be deemed to be an
22 employer under the Whistleblower Law with regard to a good faith
23 report of a potential violation of this subchapter, the Dog Law
24 or 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54.

25 § 58A18. Annual report.

26 No later than July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, the
27 department shall submit a report summarizing the information
28 collected under this subchapter and complaints, enforcement
29 activities and penalties authorized under this subchapter to the
30 following:

1 testing methods, in vitro studies and microphysiological
2 systems.

3 "Animal." Any live vertebrate other than humans.

4 "Biomedical research." The investigation of the biological
5 processes and causes of disease or research conducted to
6 increase fundamental scientific knowledge or to expand the
7 understanding about how processes in living organisms develop
8 and function. The term shall not include testing conducted to
9 assess the safety or efficacy of chemicals, ingredients, drugs,
10 vaccines, product formulations or products.

11 "Department." The Department of Agriculture of the
12 Commonwealth.

13 "Product testing facility." Any entity, institution,
14 business, partnership, corporation, association or other legal
15 relationship that tests chemicals, ingredients, drugs, vaccines,
16 product formulations or products in this Commonwealth.

17 "Traditional animal test method." A process, procedure or
18 experiment using animals to obtain information on the
19 characteristics of a chemical, ingredient, drug, vaccine,
20 product formulation or product and that generates information
21 regarding the ability of the chemical, ingredient, drug,
22 vaccine, product formulation or product to produce a specific
23 biological effect under specified conditions.

24 § 58A32. Certain test methods prohibited.

25 (a) Prohibition.--It is unlawful for a product testing
26 facility to use a traditional animal test method in the
27 Commonwealth if an agency responsible for regulating the
28 specific product or activity for which the test method is being
29 used has either:

30 (1) approved an alternative test method or strategy; or

1 (2) made available or granted a waiver from the use of a
2 traditional animal test method.

3 (b) Alternative.--If no alternative test method or strategy
4 and no waiver is available under subsection (a), a product
5 testing facility shall use a traditional animal test method
6 using the fewest number of animals possible and reduce the level
7 of pain, suffering and stress of an animal used for testing.

8 (c) Application.--No provision of this section shall be
9 construed to:

10 (1) apply to any animal research conducted for the
11 purposes of biomedical research;

12 (2) prohibit the use of any non-animal test method or
13 strategy for the testing of any chemical, ingredient, drug,
14 vaccine, product formulation or product that is not described
15 in the definition of "alternative test method or strategy";

16 (3) prohibit the use of traditional animal test methods
17 to comply with requirements of Federal or State agencies; or

18 (4) prohibit the use of traditional animal test methods
19 if needed to comply with a written request from a Federal or
20 State agency in circumstances where the agency has approved
21 an alternative test method or strategy but also expressly
22 concluded that a traditional animal test method is needed to
23 fully assess the impacts on the health or safety of
24 consumers.

25 § 58A33. Report.

26 Each product testing facility in this Commonwealth shall
27 annually submit a report to the department by June 30, 2026, and
28 each June 30 thereafter, regarding any traditional animal test
29 method or alternative test method or strategy conducted in the
30 prior calendar year. The report under this section shall be

1 posted on each product testing facility's publicly accessible
2 Internet website no later than 90 days following the submission
3 of the report under this section to the department. The report
4 shall include:

5 (1) The number and species of animals used.

6 (2) The type and number of alternative test methods or
7 strategies used.

8 (3) The number of waivers used.

9 (4) The reason for using any traditional animal test
10 methods, alternative test methods or strategies or waivers,
11 including an explanation for why a traditional animal test
12 method was required.

13 § 58A34. Remedy.

14 Upon a violation of this subchapter or any rules, regulations
15 or orders issued under this subchapter, the Attorney General may
16 institute a civil action in Commonwealth Court or in the court
17 of common pleas of the judicial district in which the violation
18 occurs for injunctive relief to restrain the violation and for
19 such other relief as the court shall deem proper. Neither the
20 institution of this action nor any of the proceedings therein
21 shall relieve any party to the proceedings from other fines or
22 penalties prescribed for the violation of this subchapter or any
23 rule.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.