



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 246

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H.P. 179

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

**An Act To Provide for the Adoption of Cats and Dogs Previously  
Used for Research Purposes**

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Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Saco.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 746** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 746**

4 **RESEARCH ANIMAL RETIREMENT ACT**

5 **§4171. Short title**

6 This Act may be known and cited as "the Research Animal Retirement Act."

7 **§4172. Definitions**

8 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms  
9 have the following meanings.

10 **1. Animal rescue organization.** "Animal rescue organization" means a nonprofit  
11 organization whose purpose is rescuing animals in need of care and finding permanent,  
12 adoptive homes for the animals.

13 **2. Animal shelter.** "Animal shelter" means a nonprofit organization that provides  
14 housing and care for animals, directly or through 3rd-party agreements, with the purpose  
15 of finding permanent homes for those animals through adoption.

16 **3. Private placement.** "Private placement" means an arrangement between a  
17 research facility and an individual seeking to adopt a retired animal.

18 **4. Research facility.** "Research facility" means a facility that conducts experiments  
19 on dogs or cats for science, testing, education or research purposes. "Research facility"  
20 includes a higher education research facility that receives funding from the State,  
21 including tax-exempt status, or a facility that provides research in collaboration with a  
22 higher education research facility.

23 **5. Retired animal.** "Retired animal" means a cat or dog that has been previously  
24 used for science, testing, education or research purposes and is no longer required by the  
25 research facility and has no substantial medical conditions preventing successful  
26 integration into a permanent, adoptive home.

27 **§4173. Adoption of cats and dogs used in science, testing, education or research**

28 **1. Retired animals.** A research facility or an employee or student of a research  
29 facility, unless euthanasia of a retired animal is required for health or safety reasons,  
30 shall:

31 A. Offer the retired animal to an animal rescue organization or animal shelter for  
32 adoption; or

33 B. Offer the retired animal for adoption through private placement.

