



## **MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS**

**PO Box 10411  
BALTIMORE, MD 21209**

February 27, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Regulation – SB 536 – Support

Chair Feldman, Vice- Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulations – SB 536.

This bill would establish requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a research facility or testing facility; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing certain procedures on dogs or cats; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from conducting a canine or feline toxicological experiment under certain circumstances; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; and generally relating to research facilities and testing facilities that use animals in research, education, or testing.

Maryland has many research institutions, both private and academic, that test on animals. Currently, there is inadequate accountability to ensure that the animals used in testing are being treated humanely. When a non-animal alternative test is available it is not guaranteed that the transition to the newer and more humane alternative gets implemented. Change is not always easy for large institutions, so the reality is that such animal tests can persist and even increase long after suitable alternative methods are available. This bill places guardrails on these tests, what animals can be used, and other aspects of testing on animals that are needed to ensure that humane best practices are being followed.

Maryland's lab animals are counting on us!

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 536 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.