



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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February 17, 2026

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 – Adoption and Reporting Requirements – SB 422- 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 – Adoption and Reporting Requirements – SB 422.

SB 422 updates the widely supported “Beagle Bill,” also known as the Beagle Freedom Act, which Maryland legislators overwhelmingly passed in 2018. The purpose of that law was to allow healthy dogs and cats used in research—after they had served their purpose—to be adopted into loving homes. However, the original legislation lacked mechanisms to ensure that its goals were being consistently and effectively carried out.

This bill addresses that gap by requiring research and testing facilities to report annually to the Department of Agriculture the number of dogs and cats used in experiments and the number adopted after research concludes. Colleges and universities would also be required to submit the results of federal inspections to the General Assembly.

Specifically, the bill holds institutions that conduct research on dogs and cats accountable by requiring them to disclose the number of animals they own and use, the number released to animal rescue organizations after testing, and the names of those organizations. Information regarding compliance with the law would be made publicly available on the Department of Agriculture’s website. In addition, any school or institution of higher education conducting animal research must submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing inspection results by December 31.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure that research institutions, testing facilities, and institutions of higher education are doing everything possible to allow healthy dogs and cats—who have already endured significant suffering—to be placed into safe, loving homes.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Kramer for sponsoring SB 422 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.