



NYSAPF is the voice of New York's humane societies, SPCAs, non-profit and municipal animal shelters as well as animal welfare organizations which focus on homeless animals.

MEMO TO THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER IN SUPPORT OF A.8261A (Rosenthal)/S.98A (Boyle) The Research Animal Retirement Act

The members of the NYS Animal Protection Federation support A.8261/S98 which would require state funded research facilities that use dogs or cats in their work to be offered for adoption through either private placement or at one of New York's animal shelters.

The bill is long in coming and will right a wrong. For many, this bill is known as the Beagle Bill because beagles are the dogs that are overwhelmingly used for research purposes. They trust people and are easy to handle. But imagine the life of a research dog or cat—never out of a cage, never really knowing the love of a family, never feeling grass under his or her feet.

This legislation will create a way for those animals that are adoptable to be adopted. There's no reason why an adoptable research dog or cat should routinely be euthanized.

The bill calls for state-funded research facilities to make available for adoption research animals that do not have to be euthanized at the end of testing for the sake of necropsy/cell and tissue samples. Currently, state law covers the treatment of these animals while they are in the labs. They must be provided with proper nourishment, pain management, bedding and other things that enhance their quality of life. It is time for these facilities to take the next step in making sure these animals have quality of life after the research is completed and to provide the opportunity for adoption into loving homes.

*The bill provides for either private placement through the research facility or the research facility may enter into an agreement with one of New York's humane societies, SPCAs, nonprofit or municipal animal shelters to facilitate the adoption of these animals. **Once an animal shelter agrees to take a research animal, the shelter then assumes full responsibility for the animal including liability, just like it would any other companion animal it makes available for adoption.***

The members of the New York State Animal Protection Federation welcome the opportunity to work with state-funding research facilities across New York to make sure that these animals do feel grass under their feet, sleep in a warm bed of their own and enjoy the love of their adopted family.