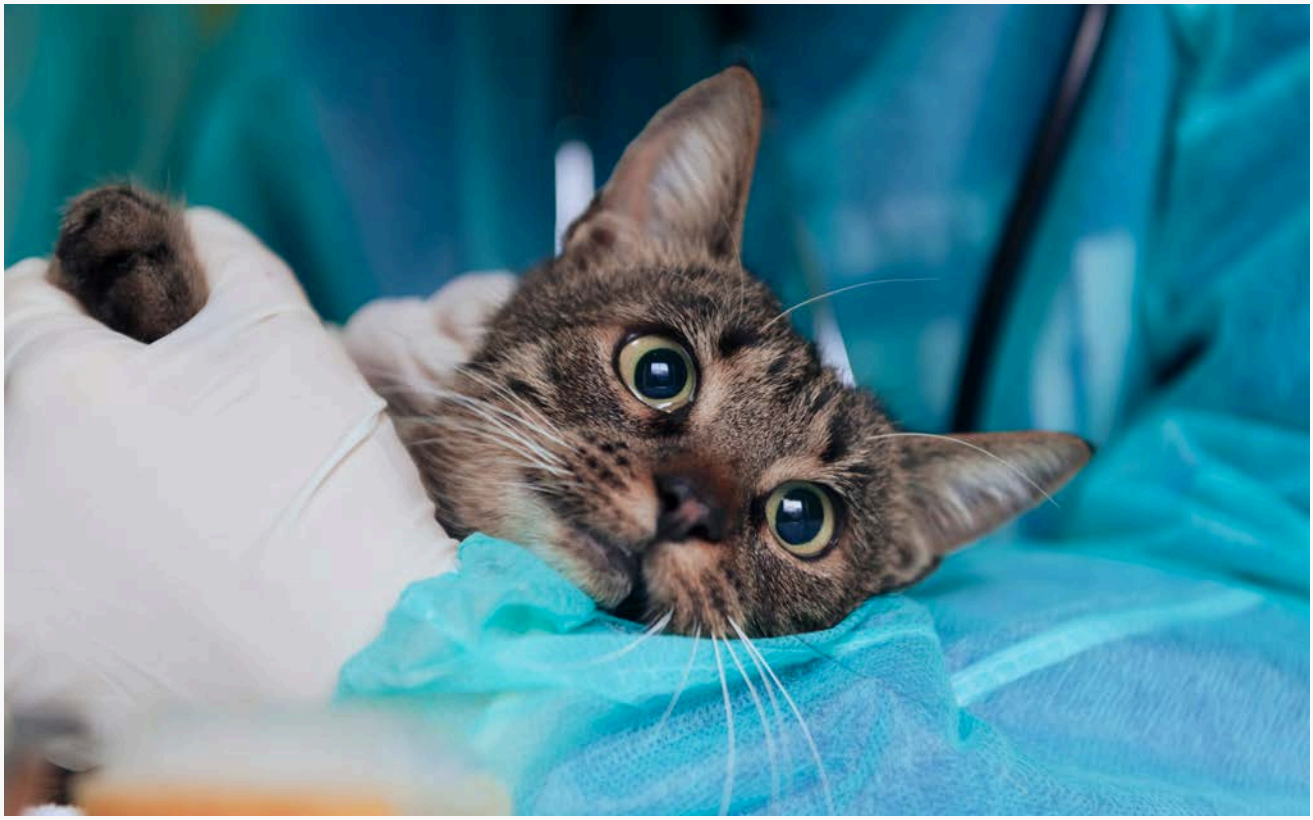
ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF CANADA

ANIMAL PROTECTION SINCE 1990

No Pets in Research

2025 Campaign Package



animalalliance.ca/nopetsinresearch

ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF CANADA

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Photo Credit: Brian Gunn

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animalalliance.ca/nopetsinresearch

Campaign Overview

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Since 1990, thousands of lost, stray, and surrendered pets have been subjected to research experiments in Canada. Despite public outcry and efforts to ban the practice, pet dogs and cats continue to be used in research, testing, and education.

Animal Alliance of Canada's No Pets in Research campaign aims to end this practice through public awareness, political advocacy, and legislative changes. Our goal is to ensure no companion animals are ever used in research facilities in Canada.

Since launching Project Jessie in 1991, Animal Alliance of Canada has made significant progress in eliminating the supply of pets for research, particularly in Ontario, the only province with animal research legislation. However, loopholes in Ontario's regulations continue to allow thousands of dogs and cats to be taken under the misleading "Donated by Owner" category—a process that remains largely unregulated and unchecked. The Canadian Council on Animal Care collects numbers of animals used in research in Canada but none are broken down by Province.

This campaign seeks to:

- **Amend the animals for Research Act to end or ban the use of pet dogs and cats in research.**
- **Raise public and political awareness of this hidden issue.**

Ontario's legal loopholes allow this to continue without oversight, and **the public remains largely unaware.**

Campaign Mission

81% of Canadians are uncomfortable with the pound seizure of animals for use in research. Our mission is to:

- Ensure no pet in Canada ends up in a research facility.
- Secure legislative protections for companion animals.
- Hold government and research institutions accountable.
- Expose unethical practices and demand transparency.

Using pets in research is the ultimate betrayal. We envision a Canada where all pets are safe from research experiments, and we are committed to making that a reality through advocacy, education, and political action.



Photo Credit: Brian Gunn

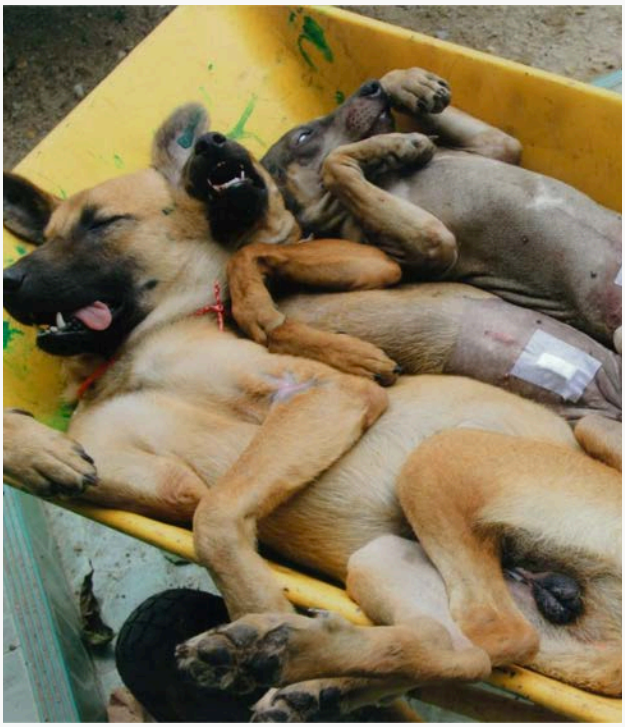


Photo Credit: Brian Gunn

Royal's Story

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A beloved Golden Retriever, Royal, was sold by local animal control, and later euthanized at the University of Guelph—all in violation of Ontario law. Royal's story is one of injustice, secrecy, and the failure of institutions to protect companion animals from wrongful harm.

On September 2, 2001, while Laurie was away, Royal wandered off their property. Barry Clarke, Laurie's husband, tried desperately to locate him, contacting the local animal control, police, and fire department, but was met with dead ends due to the long weekend closures. A newspaper ad led Barry to learn that Royal had been picked up by Arteeka Canine Control on September 2nd and taken to the pound.

When Barry finally reached Arteeka, she was misled. Initially told that Royal had been adopted, he later learned that Royal had been euthanized due to seizures. However, further investigation revealed a darker truth—Royal had actually been sold to the University of Guelph as part of their research program.





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Ontario's *Animals for Research Act* mandates a 72-hour hold for stray animals before adoption or transfer to research. Since Royal was picked up on a long weekend, he should have been held until September 6, yet he was sold on September 5 and euthanized immediately upon arrival, being deemed too old for research.

Laurie sought answers from officials, including the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, but faced obstruction. Freedom of Information requests were denied, and University of Guelph researcher, Dr. Denna Benn, admitted she never verified Royal's eligibility, stating, "I just go on trust."

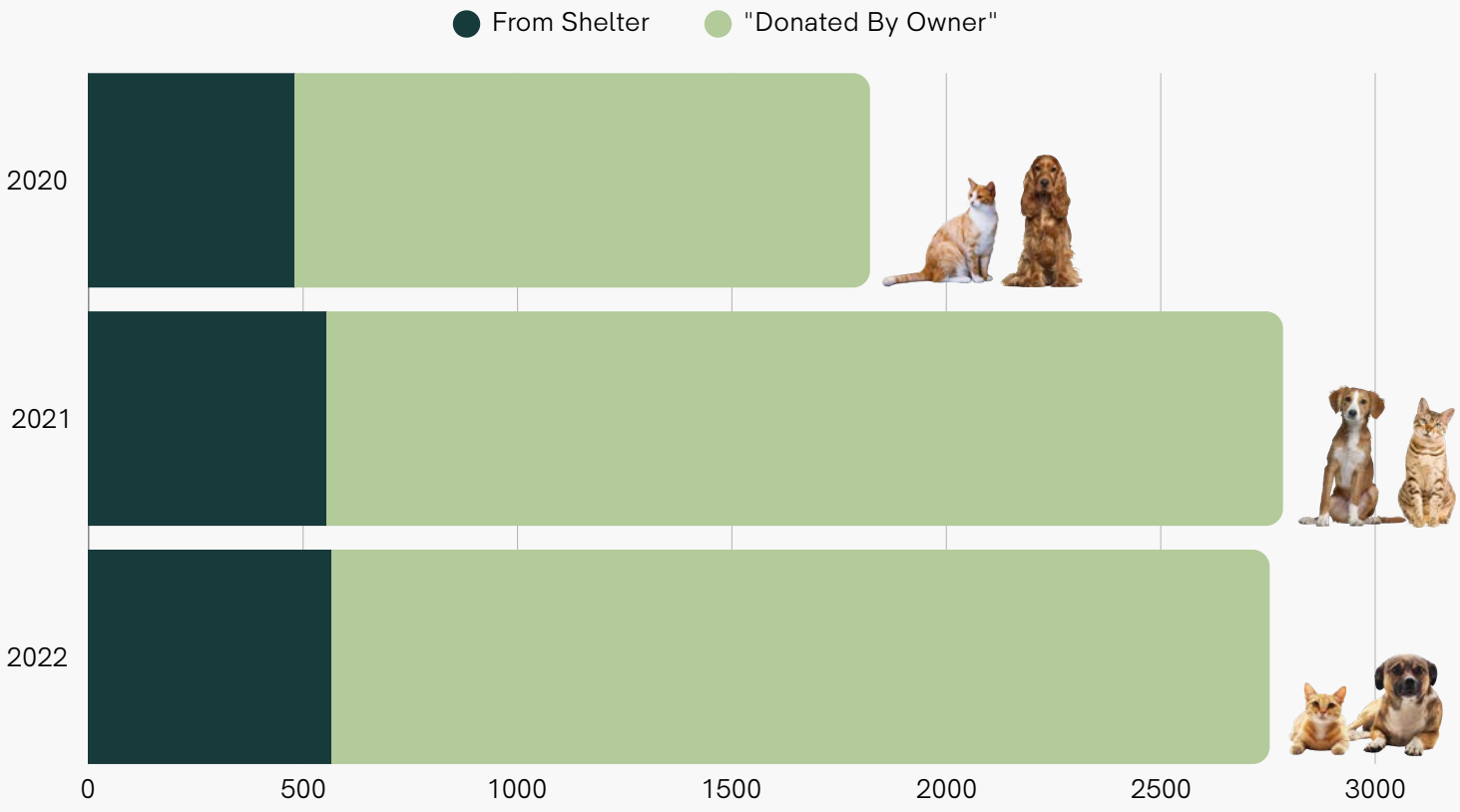
Royal was a well-cared-for dog, with a tattoo and wearing a collar with his family's phone number. His preventable death highlights the need for better legislation to protect lost or stray pets from a tragic fate in research.

Royal's story is one of thousands left untold — a heartbreaking example of how families are being devastated by a broken system. Animal Alliance of Canada continues to push for transparency, accountability, and permanent change to ensure no family has to endure this kind of loss again.

The Problem

Despite decades of lifesaving work through Animal Alliance's Project Jessie program, the root of the problem remains: Ontario law not only allows but requires municipal shelters to sell animals. Research labs can still legally obtain pet dogs and cats either from shelters or through the "Donated by Owner" category. These outdated practices offer researchers a "cost-effective" way to acquire animals, with some Ontario shelters selling dogs for as little as $6 and cats for just $2.

Comparison of the number of dogs and cats taken from animal shelters for research vs. the number Donated by Owner.



The "Donated by Owner" category is a loophole that allows an alarming number of pets to enter research facilities with minimal oversight. In 2023, 10,075 "random source" animals were reported in Canadian research facilities.

The Solution

To protect companion animals, we must ban the use of pet dogs and cats in research, testing, and education. Many countries have already adopted humane alternatives that make the use of pets in research obsolete.

We must amend Ontario's Animals for Research Act, push the provincial government to introduce stronger protections for companion animals, and hold research facilities accountable for transparency and unethical practices.



The public can play a meaningful role in ending the use of dogs and cats in research.

By mobilizing the broader public, we can continue to raise awareness about this critical issue, apply sustained pressure on the Ontario government, and advocate for legislative change.

How You Can Help

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Animal Alliance of Canada invites your support in advancing meaningful legislative change to protect companion animals in Ontario from being used in research. **Here are four ways you can make an impact:**

If you live in Ontario, contact the premier and speak out!

Share the No Pets in Research campaign with your network.

Help municipal pounds and animal rescue groups find homes for lost and abandoned pets.

If you live in another province, campaign for laws at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels that would ban researchers from using 'random source' animals.

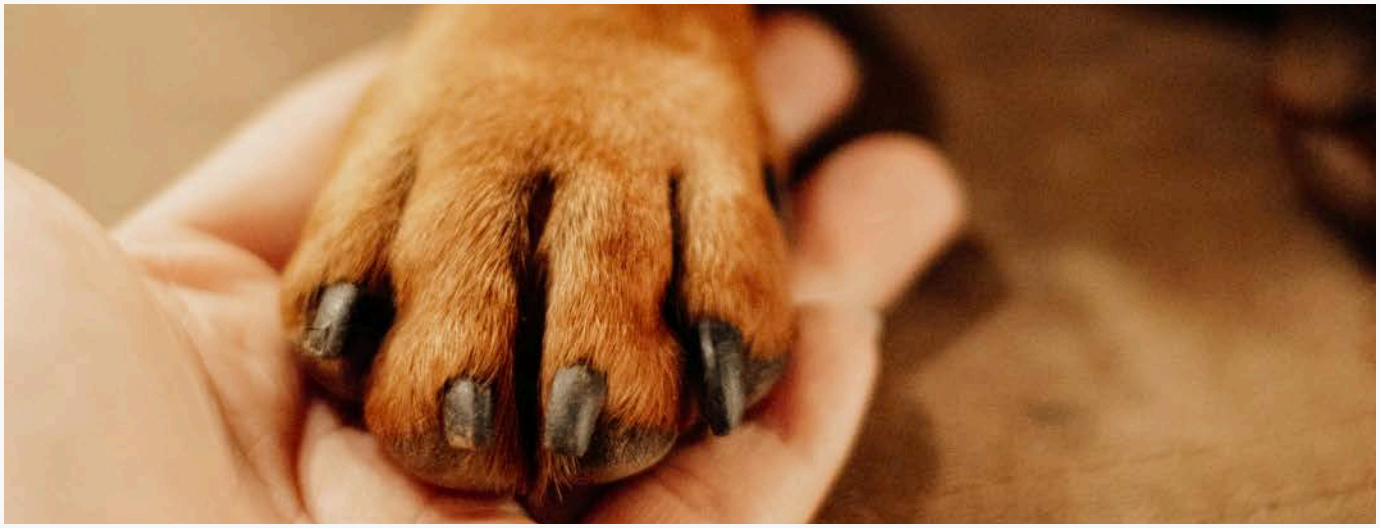
When encouraging the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, to introduce legislation banning the use of lost pets in research, handwritten letters and phone calls are best. You can find a pre-written email form **here.**

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

416-325-1941
premier@ontario.ca

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Thank you for your support.



Animal Alliance of Canada has been advocating for over 30 years to protect pets from research. We've made progress, but there is more work to be done.

Follow Us To Stay Up To Date

Follow us on social media to join the movement and stay connected.

@animalallianceofcanada

@animalallianceofcanada

Contact Us

Reach out to our team for more information or additional support.

contact@animalalliance.ca

animalalliance.ca