ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF CANADA

ANIMAL PROTECTION SINCE 1990

THE USE OF PETS IN RESEARCH IN CANADA

How this happens and what you can do to help.





Image: Brian Gunn



Image: Brian Gunn

Today’s Discussion



Photo Credit: Brian Gunn

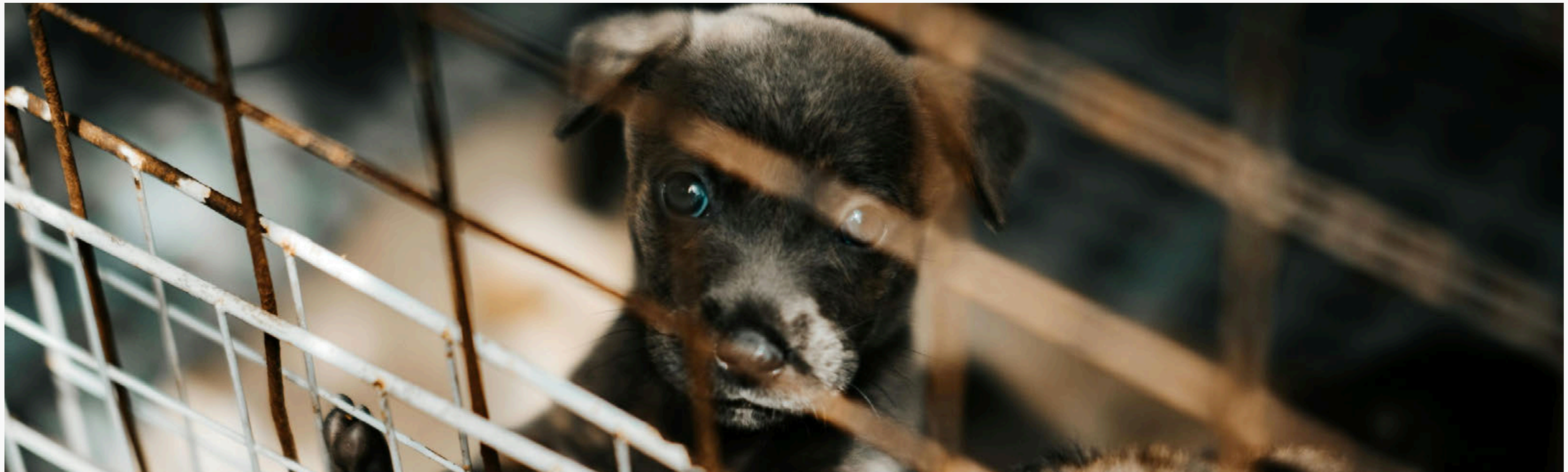
1. About Animal Alliance of Canada & Project Jessie
2. No Pets in Research Campaign
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4. The Solution
5. How You Can Help
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Animal Alliance of Canada

Animal Alliance of Canada, founded in 1990, is a non-profit organization committed to the protection of all animals.

Since its inception, Animal Alliance has worked to create long term, positive change for animals and the environment. We use electoral politics and lobbying as tactics to encourage legislators to pass sound animal and environmental protection laws.



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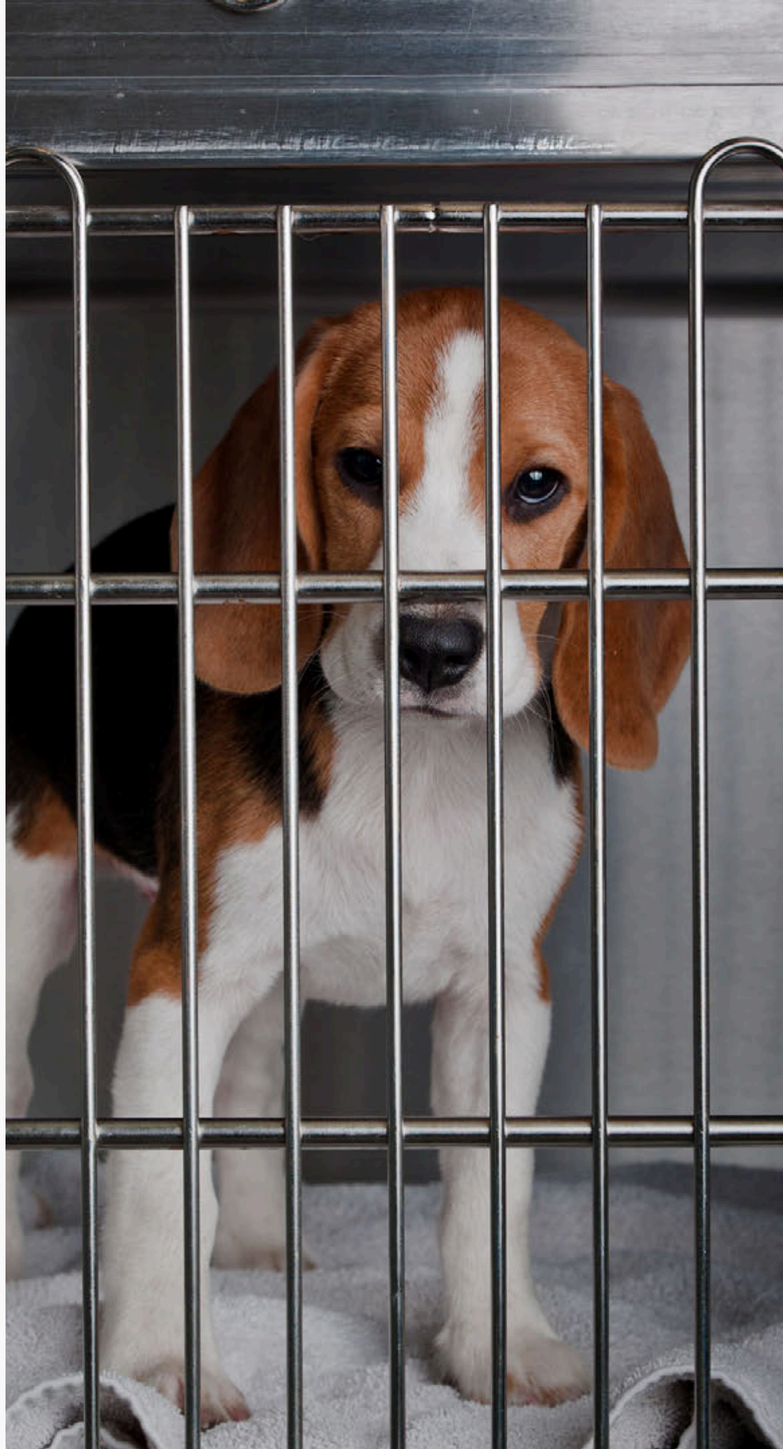
About Project Jessie

Project Jessie is a campaign of Animal Alliance of Canada that has been helping animals since 1991.

We established Project Jessie to rescue pet dogs and cats at risk of being sold to researchers. Project Jessie's mandate included fighting for legislation that would ban pounds selling lost and abandoned pet dogs and cats to researchers.

We adopted the name "Jessie" to honour a dog we tried to rescue from researchers. We failed. "Project Jessie" ensures that Jessie will never be forgotten.

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The Reformed Project Jessie

- Supports rescue groups across Canada
- Campaigns for laws at the federal, provincial and municipal levels that bans researchers from using lost, stray and abandoned pets in labs
- Persuade foundations and governments to stop funding researchers who use ‘random source animals’



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No Pets in Research Campaign

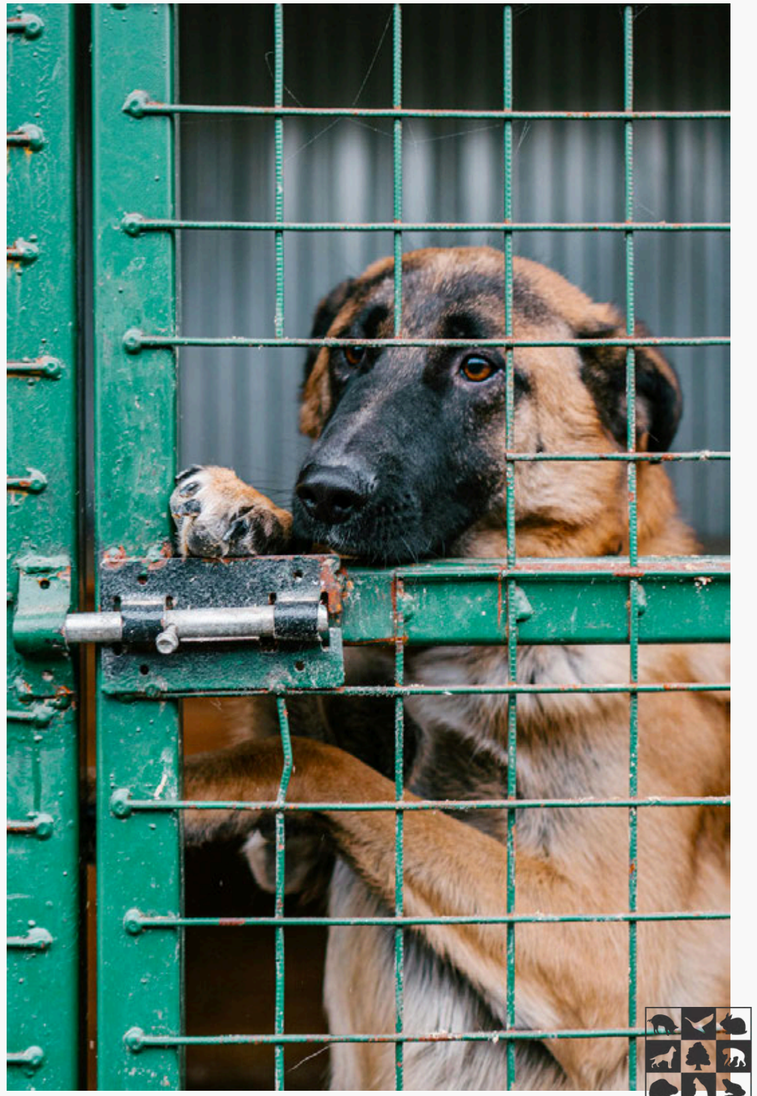
Campaign Overview

Since 1990, thousands of lost, stray, and surrendered pets have been subjected to research experiments in Canada.

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

- Loopholes in Ontario's regulations continue to allow thousands of dogs and cats to be taken under the misleading "Donated by Owner" category



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Ontario Animals for Research Act

The Ontario Animals For Research Act governs how pet dogs and cats are acquired by research facilities in Ontario, the only province in Canada where the practice is mandated.

According to the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), **between 2019 and 2023, 57,156 dogs and 24,521 cats were sent to research laboratories in Canada.**

Of those dogs and cats, 27,574 dogs and 22,223 cats were reported as “Random Source”.



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“Pound Sourced” Explained

Pound sourced animals refers to dogs and cats obtained from Ontario pounds pursuant to a municipal by-law and “used for research purposes”.

The Ministry has expanded the pound definition to include humane societies that are contracted to run municipal pounds and rescue groups that take animals from pounds after the redemption period.



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“Research Facility Source” Explained

Research Facility Source includes pet dogs and cats that were purchased by the research institution in one year and were retained by the facility in the next year or were obtained from another research facility in Ontario.

It also includes dogs and cats born and used for research purposes in research facilities.



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“Donated by Owner” Explained

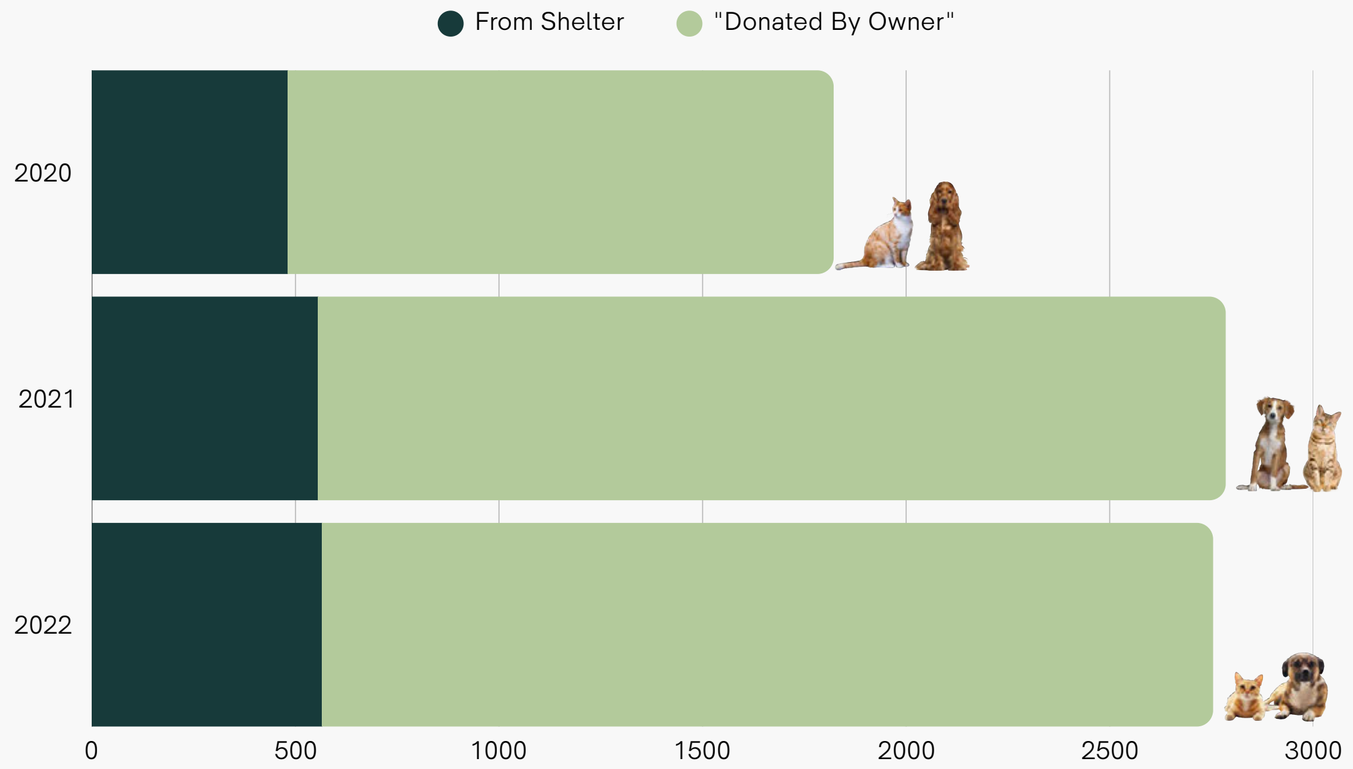
Another source of pet dogs and cats are those “donated by owner”. Some of these animals are brought in by their owners for test procedures at research facilities and remain in the care of their owners.

However, the Ministry has expanded “donated by owner” to include animals who are surrendered to humane societies or pet dogs and cats who are picked up by some unknown entity in communities without municipal by-laws governing stray dogs and cats.



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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.

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Remembering Royal



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Royal’s Story

Royal was a much loved, elderly dog who lived his entire life with his human companion, Laurie Bishop. One sad day, Royal wandered off his property.

Someone found him and took him to the local pound, thinking this friendly dog would be safe and even expressed an interest in adopting him. Instead, the pound sold him to a research facility where he was quickly euthanized after being deemed too old for research.

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.

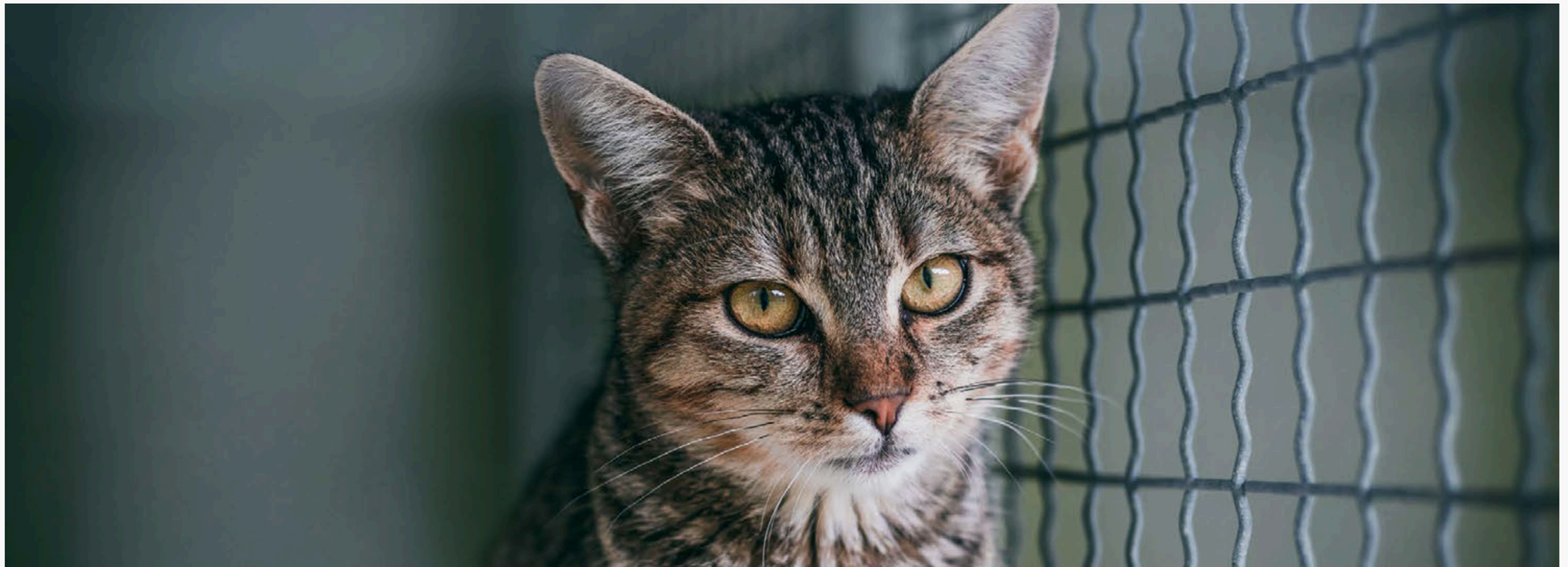


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What is the Solution?

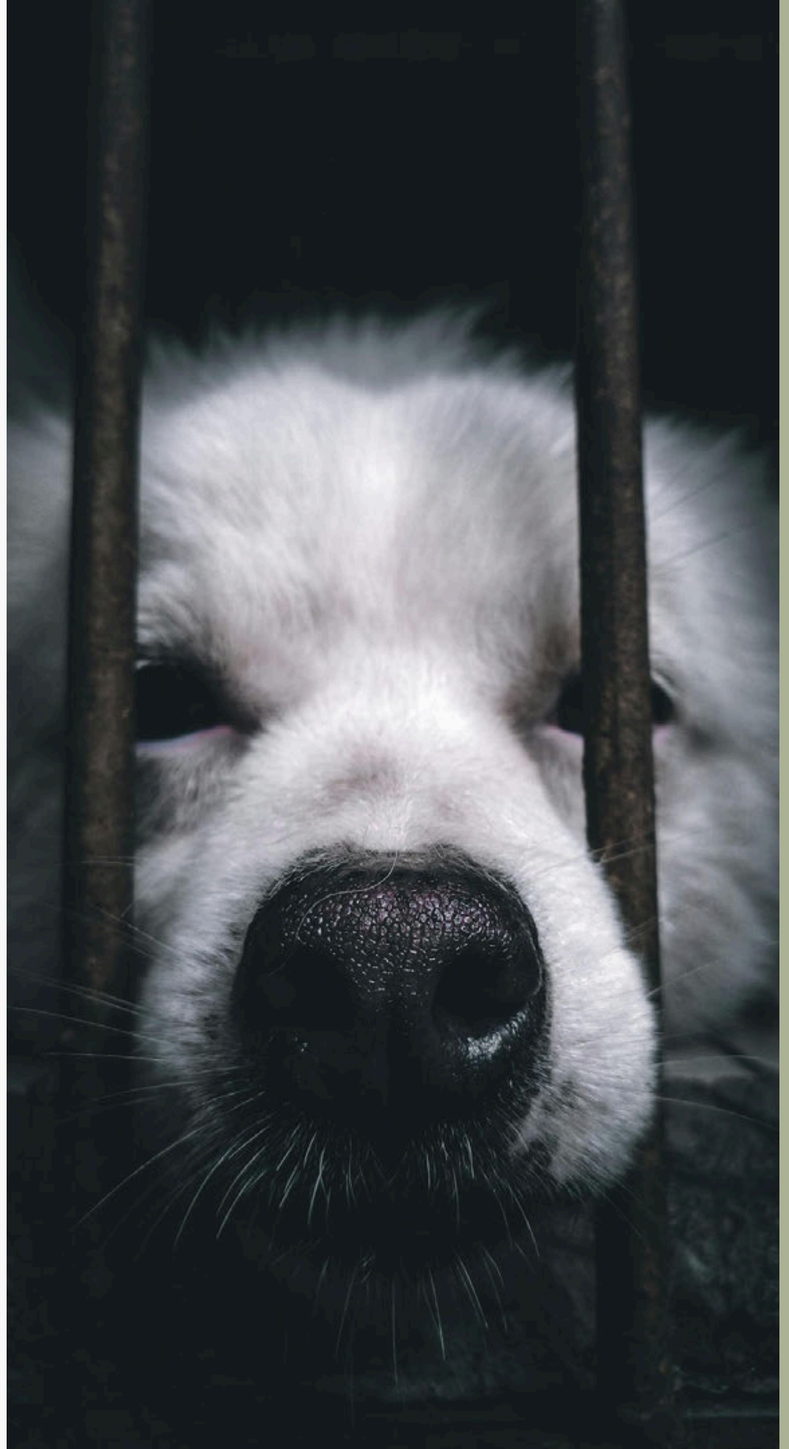
We must amend Ontario's Animals for Research Act, push the provincial government to introduce stronger protections for companion animals, and hold research facilities accountable for transparency and unethical practices.

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.



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How You Can Help



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

2. If you live in another province, campaign for laws at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels that ban researchers using pets ‘random source animals’.

3. Share the no pets in research campaign with your network.

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

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Contacting The Premier

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.

A link to our pre-written email form will be available in our post-webinar resources.

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

416-325-1941
premier@ontario.ca

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Keeping Your Pets Safe

- Learn more and stay educated
- Ensure your pet’s microchip information is up-to-date
- Review your local shelter policies



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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



Q&A



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