

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0545

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As you begin work on the FY22 House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration & Related Agencies bill, we respectfully request the subcommittee include the following report language directing the USDA to pursue retirement for animals no longer needed in intramural agency research:

- *Post-research animal placement—The Committee commends ARS on its retirement of cats no longer needed in lab research. Several other agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs have enacted formal policies expressing support for and facilitating the retirement and adoption of healthy animals held or used in intramural research when appropriate. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs ARS to establish a framework to allow the retirement of regulated animals no longer needed in intramural agency research to private homes, rescues or sanctuaries.*

In 2019, the USDA adopted out more than a dozen cats to private homes from its testing labs following efforts by Congress and other advocates. This was a laudable decision, but the agency has yet to enact a policy making this an option for other healthy, Animal Welfare Act-regulated animals that survive research at USDA facilities.

Lab animal retirement is widely supported by animal welfare advocates, the animal research community and other stakeholders.

We are grateful for the Committee's leadership on this issue in its past several bills and would be very appreciative for its support once again.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Retirement for USDA Lab Animals
List of Signatories
April 29, 2021

_____/S/_____
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Bill Posey
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Andy Levin
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Fred Keller
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress