



## PROTECT COMPANION ANIMALS FROM BEING STOLEN & SOLD TO RESEARCH

### SUPPORT THE PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT

#### The Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2021 - H.R. 3187

Reintroduced into Congress on May 13, 2021, the Pet Safety and Protection Act (PSPA), H.R. 3187, will prohibit Class B dealers from selling random-source dogs and cats into research facilities. This important piece of legislation would provide a permanent solution to protect America's companion animals from Class B dealers who are known to acquire dogs and cats through unscrupulous or illegal methods.

Class B dealers are licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sell random-source dogs and cats to laboratories for scientific research. However, because they are obtained randomly, these animals are very often stolen companion animals or strays.

Last Chance for Animals (LCA) has proven, through multiple undercover investigations, that Class B dealers obtain dogs and cats through various methods, including pet theft, and offering a good home to the pets of unsuspecting people who place "free to good home" ads in local newspapers. Class B dealers and their middleman cohorts, called bunchers, acquire dogs and cats and sell them for profit to research facilities. LCA has routinely documented that animals suffer under horrendous conditions in the Class B dealer system.

#### What is a Class B Animal Dealer?

Class B dealers are licensed by the USDA to sell cats and dogs to research facilities. However, they routinely violate the Animal Welfare Act by acquiring dogs and cats through fraudulent sources and abusing them. LCA's undercover investigation documenting this abuse is the subject of HBO's award-winning documentary, *Dealing Dogs*. It is virtually impossible to know the true history of dogs and cats acquired by Class B dealers. Each time a Class B dealer sells a dog or cat to a research lab, there is the strong possibility that they are a lost or stolen family pet.

#### The Inherent Problems

Animal research facilities who obtain cats and dogs from Class B dealers have no way of knowing if random-source dogs and cats were stolen or came from other unscrupulous methods.

Investigations by LCA into Class B dealers have revealed dogs and cats living in horrifying conditions and severe animal neglect. Dogs who are sick or injured are denied proper veterinary care, packed into overcrowded kennels where fighting can occur, and have limited access to food and water. They are also left outside in extreme weather.

The USDA has stated they can't guarantee dogs and cats used in research experiments are legally acquired and they spend countless taxpayer dollars each year unsuccessfully trying to regulate Class B dealers.

#### The Solution: Passing the Pet Safety and Protection Act

The PSPA, H.R. 3187, currently pending before the U.S. House of Representatives, would be a permanent solution to stop Class B dealers from selling random-source dogs and cats to research facilities.



Pepper was stolen and sold to research (Sport Illustrated 1964)

The PSPA has bipartisan support in Congress and has been reintroduced by Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ). The bill is currently awaiting a hearing before the House Agriculture Committee. A Senate version of the PSPA is expected soon.

## The Long History of Class B Animal Dealers

Class B dealers selling stolen companion animals to research has been documented for over 50 years. In 1964, *Sports Illustrated* published the captivating story of Pepper, a dalmatian stolen from a Pennsylvania family, who was sold to a research facility in New York and killed before the family was able to find their beloved Pepper.

In 1966, *Life Magazine* published an article about animal dealers selling stolen pets to research facilities, titled "Concentration Camp for Dogs." *Life* reported this article garnered more letters from the public than anything they had previously printed.

Both the *Sports Illustrated* and *Life Magazine* articles sparked great outrage and gave birth to the passage of what is now known as the Animal Welfare Act.

In 2006, HBO released *Dealing Dogs*, which profiled LCA's investigation into America's most notorious Class B dealer, C.C. Baird, and documented one of the largest animal cruelty cases in U.S. history. Available on YouTube, this documentary received widespread acclaim.

## Support of the Pet Safety and Protection Act – H.R. 3187

The PSPA has bipartisan support in Congress and has been reintroduced by Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ).

A 2009 study done by the National Institute of Health (NIH), concluded that random-source dogs and cats were "not necessary" for NIH-funded scientific research and has stopped grants to research facilities who obtain animals from Class B dealers.

Every year, since 2016, language has been included in the Agricultural Appropriations Bill defunding the licensing or relicensing of Class B dealers (who sell random-source dogs and cats to research). Although there has been no opposition to the language, the work involved to constantly include this language wastes government spending and resources.

**By passing the Pet Safety and Protection Act, Congress would permanently eliminate the problems inherent in the Class B dealer system.**



Inside a Class B dealer operation



1966 Life Magazine addressing stolen dogs in research



Conan was stolen and sold to research



Cat at B dealer facility

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