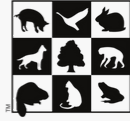


ANIMAL ALLIANCE
OF CANADA



ANIMAL PROTECTION
SINCE 1990

No Pets in Research

2025 Campaign Package



animalalliance.ca/nopetsinresearch

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Photo Credit: Brian Gunn

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Campaign Overview



Thousands of lost, stray, and surrendered pets have been subjected to research experiments in Canada through the practice of “pound seizure”. 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 now calls for a complete ban on the use of dogs and cats in research facilities—whether they are purpose-bred, obtained through municipal pounds, or taken under the “Donated by Owner” category. Through public awareness, political advocacy, and legislative change, we are working to secure permanent protections for these animals.

Since launching Project Jessie in 1991, Animal Alliance has worked to reduce the supply of pets for research in Ontario—the only province with animal research legislation. Initially, our campaign sought to eliminate “pound seizure” and the misleading “Donated by Owner” category, which allowed thousands of dogs and cats to be taken into research facilities.

Today, with Premier Doug Ford’s public commitment to end the use of dogs and cats in research, we are pushing for a full provincial ban—setting a national precedent for compassionate, modern science that no longer relies on companion animals.

This campaign seeks to:

- Amend the Animals for Research Act to ban the use of dogs and cats in research.
- Raise public and political awareness of this hidden issue.

Campaign Mission

Our mission is to end the use of dogs and cats in research, testing, and education in Canada, while securing permanent legislative protections for companion animals. We work to hold governments and research institutions accountable for their practices, and to expose unethical systems by demanding full 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



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Royal's Story



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 Laurie arrived home and finally reached Arteeka, she was misled. Initially she was told that Royal had been adopted, she 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.





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.

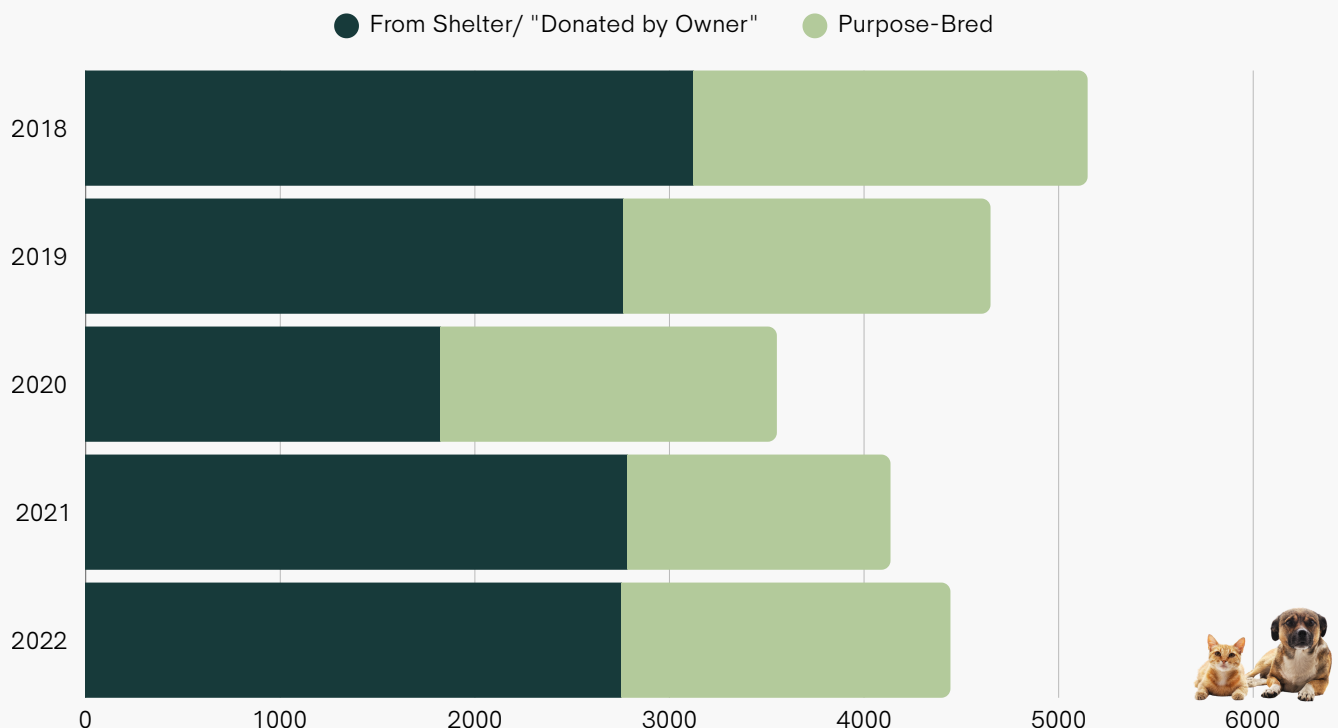
Royal's story is one of thousands left untold — a heartbreaking example of how families are being devastated by a broken system. Animal Alliance of Canada continues to push for transparency, accountability, and permanent change to ensure no family has to endure this kind of loss again.

The Problem

Every year in Canada, thousands of dogs and cats are used in research, testing, and education. Despite widespread public opposition, these companion animals continue to suffer in outdated systems that ignore modern, humane alternatives.

Ontario stands out as the only province with specific animal research legislation—and the only one that still allows companion animals to be supplied directly into laboratories. 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.

Between 2018 and 2022, more than 22,000 dogs and cats were used in Ontario research, with over 13,000 acquired directly through municipal pounds or the “Donated by Owner” category, according to government statistics*.



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



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.

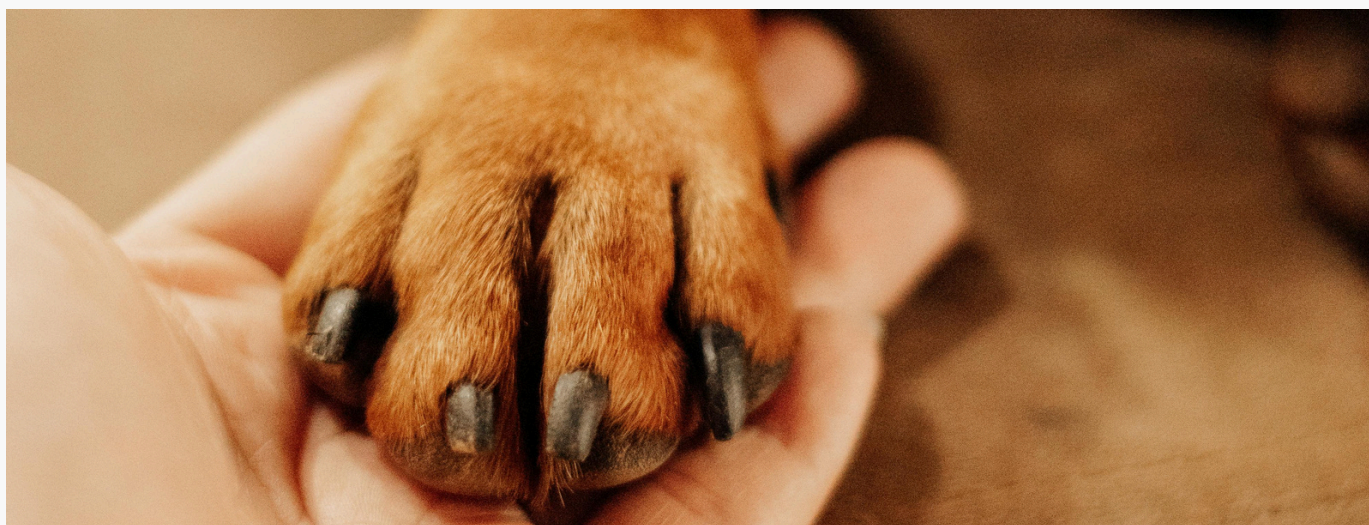
If you live in another province, campaign for laws at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels that would ban researchers from using dogs and cats in research.

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
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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.

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Contact Us

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

 contact@animalalliance.ca

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