



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation

Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017 - Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND:

The Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017 will provide protection to dogs and cats in the 44 states that currently have no law prohibiting the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donating of dogs or cats to be slaughtered for human consumption.

The Federal government should implement a uniform national animal cruelty law that explicitly bans the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption.

WHY DOGS AND CATS SHOULD NOT BE KILLED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION:

- Dogs and cats play a vital role in the collective experience of the United States and deserve protection and compassion
- Nearly 62 percent of American households include at least one pet
- Approximately 83.3 million dogs and 95.6 million cats are kept as pets in the United States
- Unlike cows, pigs, and many other animals, dogs and cats are not raised for the purpose of being slaughtered for human consumption in the United States
- The United States Department of Agriculture does not include dogs or cats in the Federal Meat Inspection Act

CURRENT LAWS:

Only 6 states- Virginia, California, Hawaii, New York, Georgia, and Michigan- have laws that prohibit the slaughter and/or sale of dog and cat meat and classify these acts as animal cruelty.

- **The state of New York** prohibits any slaughterhouse, abattoir or other place or establishment, or for any person, to slaughter or butcher domesticated dog or domesticated cat to create food, meat or meat products for human or animal consumption.
- **The state of California** classifies a misdemeanor to possess, import into, or export from, California, sell, buy, give away, or accept any carcass of any animal commonly kept as a pet with the intent of using any part of that carcass for food. It is also a misdemeanor to possess, import, export, buy, sell, give away or accept a common pet animal with the intent of killing it for food.
- **The state of Virginia** prohibits the unnecessary killing of an animal, with a specific exemption for “farming activities.” Anyone who “tortures, willfully inflicts inhumane injury or pain not connected with bona fide scientific or medical experimentation, or cruelly and unnecessarily beats, maims, mutilates or kills any animal whether belonging to himself or another;” or does the same to a dog or cat “that is a companion animal and as a direct result causes the death,” is convicted of a felony.
- **The state of Georgia** finds it unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to distribute or offer for sale for human consumption any dog meat in the State of Georgia.
- **The state of Michigan** requires dog meat to be plainly labeled or it is considered to be a misdemeanor.
- **Hawaii defines** a “Pet animal” to be a dog, cat, domesticated rabbit, guinea pig, domesticated pig, or caged birds, so long as they are not bred for consumption.