

**PUBLIC LAW 2026–08**

**116th Congress of the Republic of Felineia**

**An Act**

**To establish strict limitations on cat petting, and to impose severe penalties for non-compliance.**

**Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Felineia in Congress assembled:**

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## **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE**

This Act may be cited as the “**Cat Petting Duration Restriction and Penal Enforcement Act of 2026**” (hereinafter “the Act”).

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## **SECTION 2. FINDINGS**

Congress finds the following:

1. Excessive human contact with domestic cats has been observed to induce overstimulation, behavioral stress, and potential injury, consistent with companion animal welfare studies referenced in 9 C.F.R. §3.7(a).
  2. Existing standards for feline interaction, such as those referenced in the *Animal Welfare Act of 1966* (7 U.S.C. §2131 et seq.) and AVMA Guidelines on Feline Welfare, do not explicitly restrict the maximum duration of patting sessions.
  3. To prevent potential harm to domestic felines and to ensure consistent standards of care, Congress finds it necessary to impose a strict limitation on the duration of daily cat petting sessions.
  4. The public welfare requires enforceable penalties to ensure strict compliance with this limitation.
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## **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

In this Act:

1. **Cat** – Any domesticated member of the species *Felis catus*, regardless of age, breed, or domestic status.
2. **Patting** – The act of tactile stroking of a cat with the hands or forearms, intended to convey care or affection.

3. **Responsible Person** – Any individual who owns, cohabits with, or provides routine care for a cat, including temporary guardians, foster caregivers, or institutional entities.
  4. **Maximum Duration** – Patting sessions must not exceed **thirty (30) seconds** per cat.
  5. **Local Time** – Time measured according to the Responsible Person’s official time zone, consistent with the *Uniform Time Act of 1966* (15 U.S.C. §260a et seq.).
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## **SECTION 4. LIMITATION ON CAT PETTING**

- (a) **Maximum Duration Requirement** – Each Responsible Person shall limit the patting of every cat under their care to **thirty (30) seconds or less per session**.
- (b) **Frequency** – There is no requirement for multiple sessions; the Act solely restricts the duration of patting.
- (c) **Standards of Conduct** – Patting shall be performed in a manner that:
1. Does not exceed thirty (30) seconds per cat per session;
  2. Avoids undue pressure or harm to the cat;
  3. Ensures that each session ends immediately upon reaching the maximum duration.
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## **SECTION 5. PENALTY**

- (a) **Criminal Penalty** – Any Responsible Person who pat a cat for longer than thirty (30) seconds shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be **subject to imprisonment for a term not less than fifty (50) years**, without possibility of parole.
- (b) **Restitution and Confiscation** – In addition to imprisonment, the court may:
1. Order the removal of the cat(s) from the Responsible Person’s custody;
  2. Mandate restitution to animal welfare institutions for care and rehabilitation of affected animals.
- (c) **Enforcement Authority** – Enforcement shall be conducted by the Ministry of Domestic Animal Welfare in coordination with local Animal Welfare Officers, who shall have powers analogous to federal inspectors under 7 U.S.C. §2143.
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## **SECTION 6. EXEMPTIONS**

- (a) There are **no exemptions** under this Act. All Responsible Persons are strictly liable for any patting session exceeding thirty (30) seconds, irrespective of intent, circumstances, or cat temperament.

(b) No temporary or permanent medical, professional, or personal exemptions shall be recognized.

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## **SECTION 7. GUIDELINES AND TRAINING**

- (a) The Ministry of Domestic Animal Welfare shall issue training manuals and guidance on methods to conduct a complete patting session within thirty (30) seconds, including tactile technique, timing, and handling best practices.
  - (b) Public awareness campaigns shall emphasize the legal consequences of exceeding the thirty-second limit, the proper method to conclude sessions, and compliance requirements for multi-cat households.
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## **SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected, in accordance with standard severability principles recognized in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005).

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## **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act shall take effect **immediately upon enactment**, and shall apply to all domestic cats and Responsible Persons within the jurisdiction of Felineia.

**Passed by the 116th Congress of Felineia on January 29, 2026.**