THE BEAGLE FREEDOM BILL

The Beagle Freedom Bill would mandate that all research laboratories, especially those that receive tax-payer assistance like academic facilities, must first offer up to public adoption through registered animal rescue organizations those research dogs and cats whose testing is over or complete before killing them. Research laboratories in Illinois have and do currently use dogs, predominantly beagles, and cats and often the research does not require the euthanasia of the animal. Those dogs and cats that are healthy and have endured so much for the sake of human products and drugs should be afforded an opportunity at a home life.

The deficiency in law at present is that there exists no standard or policy covering this aspect of laboratory animal welfare. Current federal and state legislation offers an array of regulations concerning the research animal's bedding, food, water access, enrichment devices, and pain management. All aspects of a research animal's life is subject to policy prescriptions except for what happens to the animal after the research ends. Sadly many research dogs and cats are summarily euthanized at the end of the testing even if they are healthy and adoptable.

As identified below, the current Federal Law and Illinois State policy do not address this important issue. The Beagle Freedom Bill promotes a standard system wide policy to take the place of the voluntary and discretionary practices currently in place.

Current Federal Law and University Policy	**How it Addresses Post-Laboratory Adoption**
University of Illinois policy adopts the regulations and guidelines prescribed in The Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training, The Public Health Services Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and The NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Laboratory Research. No additional or unique policy with respect to animal research is included. IACUC Policy Number SI-02-2012 Animal Transfer Between Protocols For Traditional Laboratory Species addresses when animals can be transferred to other studies and re-used post original research project, but not retired. Universities are guided by U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training.	There exists no applicable language that pertains to identifying and implementing post-research adoption opportunities.
The Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training is a part of the Health Research Extension Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-158). The section of this law requires that government supported research institutions adhere to the following principles:	There exists no applicable language within the Health Research Act of 1985 and its Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training that pertain to identifying and implementing post-research adoption opportunities.

I. Transportation of animals is in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. II. Procedures and experiments that involve animals be relevant in the public good. III. Species of animals and the quantity there of be appropriate to the test. IV. There should be an emphasis on the avoidance of pain and distress when possible. V. If pain and distress must be caused sedation, analgesia, and anesthesia should be used if possible. VI. Animals suffering from pain and distress should be painlessly killed if possible. VII. Living conditions should be appropriate to the species and have access to veterinary care. VIII. Researchers and investigators shall be properly trained. IX. Exemptions to these rules should be addressed by the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee).	
The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHSP) is another section of The Health Research Extension Act of 1985. The bureaucratic policies and guidelines identified are supplemental to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The PHSP identifies institutional requirements that each animal research program must: I. List the branch of dept. of the institution covered by the PHSP. II. Provide a line of authority III. Qualifications of participants IV. Membership of IACUC V. Procedures and policies of IACUC VI. Synopsis of training for those involved in laboratory animal use VII. Size of the animals' facilities and enclosures, the species within, and the average daily inventory. The PHSP also explains the processes and differences of the categories of research laboratories and their accreditation.	There is no applicable language within The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals that pertains to identifying and implementing post-research adoption opportunities. This policy is identified as the "basis" from which institutions like the University of Illinois operate from. Additional policy for the protection and benefit of the animals can be adopted by each University's IACUCs.

The National Research Council /NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals in Research guides the University of Illinois for how research animals are procured, cared for, and used. This is a 246 page guide that addresses the following: I. Goals and ethics of animal-testing, with an emphasis on Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of animal-based procedures. II. A lengthy and detailed recitation of Animal Care and Use, procedures, necessary training, oversight authorities, and IACUC policies. III. The conditions of the environment and housing for animals kept in laboratory confinement. IV. The appropriate veterinary care and health security to be maintained for animal research. V. Physical laboratory conditions (such as vibration, temperature, security, etc.).	There is no applicable language within The National Research Council /NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals in Research Animals that pertains to identifying and implementing post-research adoption opportunities.
The American Veterinary Medical Association Guideline for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition is 102 pages of methods and techniques on how to kill various animals. These guidelines address the history of euthanasia, medical ethics, the evaluation of methods, differentiation of methods depending on the species, ways of confirming death, and how to dispose of various animal remains.	This is the only language that pertains to the adoption of animals. On page 9 of The American Veterinary Medical Association Guideline for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition there is a "Making a Decision Regarding Euthanasia" flow chart, or system's view, that requires the research laboratory to consider prior to euthanasia: What is the animal's quality of life? Can it be rehomed? If this consideration is not given and appropriately acted upon the euthanasia of the animal is unethical by the standards American Veterinary Medical Association.

The Beagle Freedom Bill would solve this deficiency by facilitating an open relationship between research laboratories and registered non-profit animal rescue organizations. The legislation would simply ask that the research institution contact the rescue group before euthanizing the animal. The legislation does not mandate sick, injured, or suffering animals have to be adopted. The legislation does not remove the judgment on the health of the animal from the research institution. If an adoption cannot be arranged by the animal rescue organization, the research institution would be free to euthanize the dog or cat as they do currently. The legislation simply opens lines of communication for the benefit of the small percentage of laboratory dogs and cats that can be adopted.