

HOUSE No. 1949

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David Allen Robertson

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to protecting cats and dogs from slaughter.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1949

By Representative Robertson of Tewksbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1949) of David Allen Robertson relative to penalties for the slaughter of cats and dogs. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1730 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to protecting cats and dogs from slaughter.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 77C, as
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, the following section:-

3 Section 77D. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the
4 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Cat”, a living or nonliving specimen of the species *Felis catus*.

6 “Consumption”, the eating or cooking of meat, organs, and other components by humans
7 or animals from animals slaughtered or recovered.

8 “Dog”, a living or nonliving specimen of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*.

9 “Slaughter”, the killing of an animal for consumption of its meat or byproducts.

10 (b) No person shall possess, import, sell, buy, give away, traffic or accept any dog or cat
11 for the purpose of slaughter or consumption.

12 (c) Any person who violates this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the state
13 prison for not more than 7 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2
14 ½ years or by a fine of not more than \$5,000; provided, however, that a second or subsequent
15 offense shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 10 years or by a
16 fine of not more than \$10,000 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

17 (d) This section shall not apply to lawful and accepted practices, including but not limited
18 to euthanasia pursuant to section 174A of chapter 140, that relate to veterinary medicine
19 performed by a licensed veterinarian or a certified veterinary technician under the guidance of a
20 licensed veterinarian pursuant to sections 54 to 59A, inclusive, of chapter 112, nor the practice of
21 scientific investigation, experiment or instruction licensed pursuant to section 174D of chapter
22 140.