

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2976

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to include cold-blooded species as animals,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to include cold-blooded
species as animals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cold-blooded Animal
5 Research and Exhibition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCLUDING REPTILES AND FISH AS ANIMALS**

7 **UNDER ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.**

8 Section 2(g) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
9 2132(g)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(g)(1) The term ‘animal’ means any live or dead
2 warm-blooded animal (including a dog, cat, monkey
3 (nonhuman primate mammal), guinea pig, hamster, rab-
4 bit, or bird), cold-blooded animal (including a reptile, am-
5 phibian, cephalopod, or fish), or such other animal as the
6 Secretary may determine is being used, or is intended for
7 use, for research, testing, experimentation, or exhibition
8 purposes, or as a pet.

9 “(2) Such term excludes—

10 “(A) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice
11 of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research;

12 “(B) horses not used for research purposes; and

13 “(C) other farmed animals, such as—

14 “(i) livestock, poultry, or fish used or in-
15 tended for use as food or fiber; or

16 “(ii) livestock, poultry, or fish used or in-
17 tended for use for improving animal nutrition,
18 breeding, management, or production efficiency,
19 or for improving the quality of food or fiber.

20 “(3) With respect to a dog, such term means all dogs,
21 including those used for hunting, security, or breeding
22 purposes.”.

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