

## It's a Matter of Trust

**Pound seizure is the sale or release of unclaimed dogs and cats from publicly funded pounds and shelters to laboratories for experimentation.** Only two states in the U.S. – Minnesota and Oklahoma – still legally require that pounds and shelters turn over unclaimed animals for experimentation if requested by a registered research facility.

- Difficult as it is to imagine, healthy dogs and cats who once lived in someone's home (much like your own) are confined to laboratory cages where they will be killed after being used in painful and sometimes long-term experiments. Animals who were much loved companions suffer the double blow of confinement to a cage and the loss of their human family. Families experience the anguish of knowing that a lost animal may have been killed in a painful experiment. In communities with pound seizure, people often choose to abandon animals they cannot keep rather than send them to a laboratory via the local shelter, thus adding to the problem of homeless, stray animals. In Los Angeles, after the repeal of pound seizure, the number of animals brought into shelters increased steadily.
- Ironically, the original intent of the Minnesota pound seizure law was pet safety, as animals were being stolen and sold to research in the 1940's when the law was passed. Lawmakers believed that if they could provide a legal source of animals, the dog and catnapping rings operating at the time would be forced out of business. Today, however, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a system in place for laboratories to legally obtain animals, making pound seizure totally unnecessary!
- The National Animal Control Association (NACA) opposes pound seizure because such laws "hinder the efforts of progressive animal shelters to promote animal welfare in a collective atmosphere of public trust." The Minneapolis and St. Paul pounds have chosen not to comply with the pound seizure law for this same reason.



Lost or homeless animals should either be put up for adoption or humanely euthanized, not released to laboratories. Pounds and shelters exist to spare animals from pain and misery, not deliver them to it. **It's a matter of trust. And pound seizure is the ultimate betrayal.**

### What You Can Do:

- Tell your family and friends about the pound seizure law – the majority of Minnesotans aren't aware this law exists. Ask them to contact their state legislators and tell them they want to see this practice banned in Minnesota.
- Purchase an ID tag which says your companion animal may not be turned over to a research facility. By law, pounds must honor such tags. Or buy a ban pound seizure bandana for your dog to wear at the dog park. Both are available at Ethique Nouveau, 317 W. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis.

For more information, contact the Animal Rights Coalition ([www.animalrightscoalition.com](http://www.animalrightscoalition.com)).

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