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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on animal cruelty, and  
for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on animal  
cruelty, 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 “Animal Violence Ex-  
5 poses Real Threat of Future Violence Act of 2024” or the  
6 “AVERT Future Violence Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1           (1) ANIMAL CRUELTY.—The term “animal cru-  
2           elty”—

3                   (A) means—

4                           (i) intentionally, knowingly, or reck-  
5                           lessly harming or killing an animal, includ-  
6                           ing maiming, mutilating, torturing, wound-  
7                           ing, poisoning, engaging in animal fight-  
8                           ing, and sexually abusing an animal, or at-  
9                           tempting to do so; or

10                           (ii) intentionally or knowingly neglect-  
11                           ing or depriving an animal of necessary  
12                           sustenance or shelter, or attempting to do  
13                           so; and

14                   (B) does not include any conduct that is—

15                           (i) customary and normal veterinary,  
16                           agricultural husbandry, or other animal  
17                           management practice;

18                           (ii) the slaughter of animals for food;

19                           (iii) hunting, trapping, fishing, a  
20                           sporting activity not otherwise prohibited  
21                           by Federal law, predator control, or pest  
22                           control;

23                           (iv) medical or scientific research;

24                           (v) necessary to protect the life of a  
25                           person; or

1 (vi) performed as part of euthanizing  
2 an animal.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
4 ty” means—

5 (A) a State;

6 (B) a unit of local government;

7 (C) a State or local court (including a ju-  
8 venile court);

9 (D) an Indian Tribe; or

10 (E) any other organization that has a doc-  
11 umented history of effective work identifying,  
12 intervening in, preventing, reducing, or other-  
13 wise responding to animal cruelty, or animal  
14 cruelty as related to interpersonal violence (as  
15 determined by the Secretary), including—

16 (i) any organization that works di-  
17 rectly with or on behalf of pets, service  
18 animals, emotional support animals, or  
19 horses and collaborates with any organiza-  
20 tion referred to in subparagraphs (A)  
21 through (D), including—

22 (I) an animal shelter; and

23 (II) an animal welfare organiza-  
24 tion;

1 (ii) any organization that provides  
2 mental health services to perpetrators and  
3 survivors of crime;

4 (iii) any organization that develops  
5 and provides training programs for law en-  
6 forcement, judges, prosecutors, other court  
7 personnel, veterinarians, or mental health  
8 professionals;

9 (iv) a domestic violence and sexual as-  
10 sult victim service provider;

11 (v) a domestic violence and sexual as-  
12 sult coalition;

13 (vi) a child abuse victim service pro-  
14 vider;

15 (vii) a provider of services to families  
16 under the supervision of the courts or de-  
17 partments of child and family services;

18 (viii) an elder abuse victim service  
19 provider;

20 (ix) a community-based and culturally  
21 specific organization; and

22 (x) any other nonprofit, nongovern-  
23 mental organization.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON ANIMAL CRUELTY, UNDERLYING FAC-**  
2 **TORS, AND FUTURE ACTS OF HUMAN VIO-**  
3 **LENCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, act-  
6 ing through the Director of the National Institute of Jus-  
7 tice, shall carry out a study—

8 (1) on the underlying factors that contribute to  
9 acts of animal cruelty committed by individuals; and

10 (2) that analyzes acts of animal cruelty as a  
11 predictor of future violence against humans.

12 (b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—In carrying out the study  
13 under subsection (a), the Director of the National Insti-  
14 tute of Justice shall—

15 (1) specifically examine, through a review of  
16 scientific literature, original research, and expert  
17 input, as appropriate—

18 (A) evidence-informed risk factors associ-  
19 ated or correlated with individuals who commit  
20 acts of animal cruelty;

21 (B) whether certain acts of animal cruelty  
22 can be correlated with certain evidence-in-  
23 formed risk factors (such as whether the acts of  
24 animal torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maim-  
25 ing, poisoning, organized abuse, such as animal  
26 fighting, sexual abuse, abandonment, or neglect,

1 are associated with the same or different evi-  
2 dence-informed risk factors);

3 (C) whether certain acts of animal cruelty  
4 demonstrate a tendency or likelihood to commit  
5 a future act of violence against humans;

6 (D) the types of violence against humans  
7 most commonly associated with certain acts of  
8 animal cruelty (such as domestic violence and  
9 assault); and

10 (E) recommendations of areas in which fu-  
11 ture research on animal cruelty is needed; and  
12 (2) develop best practices for—

13 (A) early interventions that prevent acts of  
14 animal cruelty; and

15 (B) interventions with individuals who  
16 have committed acts of animal cruelty to pre-  
17 vent future acts of violence.

18 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Director of the Na-  
19 tional Institute of Justice shall submit to Congress a re-  
20 port containing the specific policy recommendations, based  
21 on the study conducted under this section, for legislative  
22 and regulatory action at the Federal, State, and local lev-  
23 els to—

1           (1) address the evidence-informed risk factors  
2           that may contribute to acts of animal cruelty com-  
3           mitted by individuals; and

4           (2) develop effective interventions and diversion  
5           strategies for both juvenile and non-juvenile offend-  
6           ers who have been convicted of criminal offenses in-  
7           volving animal cruelty that reduce the likelihood of  
8           offenders committing future violent acts against  
9           both humans and animals.

10 **SEC. 4. STOP FUTURE VIOLENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-  
12       ized to establish a grant program to provide assistance to  
13       eligible entities to develop and strengthen effective detec-  
14       tion strategies, and early intervention or diversion re-  
15       sources, to stop acts of animal cruelty and rehabilitate of-  
16       fenders.

17       (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this  
18       section may be used to provide personnel, training, tech-  
19       nical assistance, data collection, and other resources for  
20       the apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, and mental  
21       and behavioral health treatment of persons committing  
22       acts of animal cruelty, for the rehabilitation of perpetra-  
23       tors and the prevention of future acts of animal cruelty  
24       or violence against humans, and specifically, for the pur-  
25       poses of—

1           (1) training law enforcement officers, judges,  
2           other court personnel, prosecutors, and mental  
3           health professionals to more effectively identify and  
4           respond to acts of animal cruelty;

5           (2) developing, training, or expanding units of  
6           law enforcement officers, judges, other court per-  
7           sonnel, prosecutors, and mental health professionals  
8           specifically addressing acts of animal cruelty;

9           (3) developing and implementing more effective  
10          police, court, prosecution, mental health, and early  
11          intervention policies, protocols, orders, and services  
12          specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and  
13          responding to acts of animal cruelty; and

14          (4) developing, installing, or expanding data  
15          collection and communication systems, including  
16          computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors,  
17          and courts, or for the purpose of identifying,  
18          classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders,  
19          violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and  
20          convictions for acts of animal cruelty.

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22          There are authorized to be appropriated—

23               (1) for the purposes of carrying out section 3,  
24               \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available  
25               until expended; and



1           (2) for the purposes of carrying out section 4,  
2       \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
3       2029.