

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 18, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to
which was referred HB 249,**

**AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities. Having
considered the same, report the same with the following
amendment, and the recommendation that the bill
OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Judy Aron

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Environment and Agriculture
Bill Number:	HB 249
Title:	relative to animal shelter facilities.
Date:	February 18, 2021
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2021-0349h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill updates the current statute (RSA 437:1) to allow for animal shelters to be housed in leased facilities. It also requires dogs, cats and ferrets transferred out of shelters to have a means of identification and to be vaccinated against rabies. It also stipulates that when dogs, cats or ferrets are brought into a shelter which have been abandoned or unclaimed, (as defined in RSA 437:18), that within 72 hours, every means of contacting the previous owner(s) is made in order for the animal to be reclaimed. Lastly, the bill requires that any dog, cat or ferret received from outside of the state of New Hampshire be required to have an official health certificate and meet quarantine requirements before being transferred to any person.

Vote 18-0.

Rep. Judy Aron
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

HB 249, relative to animal shelter facilities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Judy Aron for Environment and Agriculture. This bill updates the current statute (RSA 437:1) to allow for animal shelters to be housed in leased facilities. It also requires dogs, cats and ferrets transferred out of shelters to have a means of identification and to be vaccinated against rabies. It also stipulates that when dogs, cats or ferrets are brought into a shelter which have been abandoned or unclaimed, (as defined in RSA 437:18), that within 72 hours, every means of contacting the previous owner(s) is made in order for the animal to be reclaimed. Lastly, the bill requires that any dog, cat or ferret received from outside of the state of New Hampshire be required to have an official health certificate and meet quarantine requirements before being transferred to any person. **Vote 18-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Amendment to HB 249

1 Amend RSA 437:8, V(b) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 ***(b) All dogs, cats, or ferrets 3 months of age or older shall be vaccinated against***
4 ***rabies in accordance with RSA 436:100 before transfer, if proof of rabies vaccination is not***
5 ***available.***

6

7

8 Amend RSA 437:8, V(e) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

9

10 ***(e) If listed owners or agents cannot be located or refuse to reclaim possession of***
11 ***the animal, every effort shall be made to contact the secondary owner listed by microchip***
12 ***registries as soon as possible, not to exceed 72 hours.***

Voting Sheets

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



02/17/202 9:57:30 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2021 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB249 Motion: OTP/A AM #: 2021-0349H Exec Session Date: February 17, 2021

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	X		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	X		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	X		
Verville, Kevin G.	X		
Davis, Arnold G.	X		
Stapleton, Walter A.	X		
Homola, Susan	X		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	X		
Mason, James L.	X		
Sanborn, Gail E.			X
Bixby, Peter W.	X		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	X		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	X		
Dutzy, Sherry	X		
Murray, Megan A.	X		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	X		
Caplan, Tony	X		
Hyland, Stephanie M.	X		
Perez, Maria	X		
TOTAL VOTE:	18		

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



02/17/202 9:57:30 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2021 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB249 **Motion:** Adopt Amendment **AM #:** 2021-0349H **Exec Session Date:** February 17, 2021

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	x		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	x		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	x		
Verville, Kevin G.	x		
Davis, Arnold G.	x		
Stapleton, Walter A.	x		
Homola, Susan	x		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	x		
Mason, James L.	x		
Sanborn, Gail E.			x
Bixby, Peter W.	x		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	x		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	x		
Dutzy, Sherry	x		
Murray, Megan A.	x		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	x		
Caplan, Tony	x		
Hyland, Stephanie M.	x		
Perez, Maria	x		
TOTAL VOTE:	18		

Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB249

BILL TITLE: AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities.

DATE: February 3, 2021

ROOM: 301 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** ___ 10:02 am _____

Time Adjourned: ___ 10:12 am _____

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Verville, Davis, Stapleton, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Sofikitis, Andrew Bouldin, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky, ~~Caplan~~, Hyland, and Perez

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Lang, Belk. 4; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 9

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Pearl – sponsor – adds language or leased regarding shelter facilities, and without language they did not comply – Part 2 relating Health Certificates – tightens up section A – section E – shelters had language proposed –

Rep. Bixby Q. – page 1 – all dogs, cats, ferrets shall be vaccinated for rabies – there may be some small amount of puppies (less than 3 months) and young ferrets that cannot be vaccinated, please consider offering amendment A. will look into

Rep. Murray Q. – with respect to page RSA 437:8 – quarantine – is it the quarantine being referenced A. believes it refers to 40 hours

Angela Ferrari – DOGS – supports 2 points on this bill – no problem adding lease to shelter facilities – having shelter facilities requiring health certificates – would like opportunity to see amendment – checking microchips is very important

House Remote Testify

Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill HB249 on 2021-02-03

Support: 45 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 1

[Export to Excel](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Ferrari, Angela	dogs.nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Dog Owners of the Granite State	Support	Yes (3m)	No	1/31/2021 4:54 PM
Kimball, Joanna	blacksheepcardigans@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2021 8:03 PM
Munroe, Pamela	Lena252@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2021 8:18 PM
Holmes, Nancy	fmkaffen@ix.netcom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 2:04 PM
Fields, Marla	k9queen@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 4:31 PM
Wicks, Patricia	Nhrotties@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 4:35 PM
Medic, Deborah	demedic@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 4:38 PM
Stickney, Lacey	Lacey@birdsupplynh.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 4:43 PM
Pike, Bonnie	suecross@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 4:56 PM
St.Hilaire, Emily	Leashlady1@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 5:05 PM
Farley, Kathy	klindobes@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 6:40 PM
Wilkins, Leanne	Teraleepom@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 6:58 PM
Richardson, Diane	Workingclasscanine@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 8:03 PM
Cote, Christine	Wccote@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 8:56 PM
Champney, Kathryn	Witchwithab70@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 9:45 PM
Williams, Cindy	HoneyPotHounds@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 9:52 PM
Ferri, Kara	sunkissedgold@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 10:41 PM
golden, mindy	goldenguardians@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 5:11 AM
Arivella, Joyce	jarivellanewboston@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 6:47 AM

Foucher, Jaye	jaye@sibersong.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 8:06 AM
Allayne, Karina	Karina.bertrand@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 8:08 AM
Dyer, Tessa	Tessaturtle@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 8:16 AM
Webster, Cynthia	clwebster@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 8:20 AM
Gettle, Jennifer	Hazelnutlabs@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 8:46 AM
Eliason, Cynthia	cyne@cmk4u.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 9:17 AM
MacIntyre, Karen	Mackzwinger@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 9:39 AM
Ober, Stacey	Stacey.Ober@akc.org	A Lobbyist	The American Kennel Club	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 9:49 AM
Dewey, Karen	pkdewey@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 10:04 AM
Irwin, Virginia	biddy.irwin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 10:47 AM
Fitts, Melodie	mlfitts@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 11:02 AM
Dubuque, Carol	vtweims@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 11:41 AM
DeMasi, Gail	gaildemasi@live.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 12:13 PM
DeMasi, Lily	omniaperipsum@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 12:19 PM
Tinker, Elaine	Etink0212@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 12:29 PM
Hantz, Andrea	pearlypondps@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 1:19 PM
COOK, GEORGE	georgecookiv@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 1:54 PM
Draper, Liza	Lizadrap@aol	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 2:41 PM
McDonough, Julia	trainer@fortunatek9.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 7:10 PM
Aunchman, Dawn	Belauch@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 7:11 PM
Belanger, Christopher	Pipefitterboston@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 7:12 PM
Belanger, Austin	Belauch@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 7:13 PM
Lewis, Laura	somerri@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 10:05 PM
Hall, Edward	somerrijuj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 7:40 AM
SAWTELLE, erick	esawtelles@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 10:06 AM
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 11:38 AM

Testimony



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Stacey Ober, J.D.
Legislative Analyst
Community Outreach
New England Region

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Howard Pearl, Chairman
New Hampshire House Committee on Environment and Agriculture
LOB Room 303
33 North State Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: American Kennel Club Supports HB 247 Relative to Animal Shelter Facilities.

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We represent over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 22 in New Hampshire, which represent thousands of responsible dog owners.

HB 247 makes clear that before re-homing any dog imported from outside New Hampshire, an animal shelter must provide an official health certificate, ensure the rabies vaccination is up to date, and comply with the state's quarantine requirements. The AKC strongly supports these provisions, as well as the bill's procedure for identifying and notifying the rightful owner of animals admitted to a shelter in a timely manner.

The inability to verify documentation has resulted in numerous incidents in which certifications of dogs imported into the country have been found by the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be invalid or fraudulent. While the importation of dogs helps meet the demand for personal pets and working dogs, incidents involving sick dogs entering the country are alarming public health officials. They include well-documented cases of rabies, distemper, influenza, brucellosis, parasites, and other health threats, many of which can be passed to humans and other animals and many of which had been virtually eliminated in the United States.

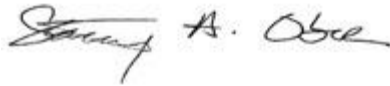
Several recent incidents highlight these dangers. In 2019, a dog imported from Egypt and ending up at a Kansas rescue was determined to have rabies, but not before all 25 of its companions had been placed into foster care or adopted.¹ United States officials suspect that the Egyptian vaccination certificates were forged. Because it was the third incident of its type in recent years, the CDC responded by imposing a ban on all imports of dogs from Egypt.² In 2018, scientists at Cornell University's Animal Health Diagnostic Center identified a strain of Asian canine distemper virus never before reported in North America, which likely travelled with a dog

obtained at a Korean meat market.³ A year before that, an epidemic of canine influenza was also traced to Asia.

In partnership with national experts such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, AKC has worked to file and pass the federal Healthy Dog Importation Act, which would streamline the federal oversight of canine imports to better protect animal and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please know that AKC and our affiliated dog clubs are interested in working with you on passage of HB 249. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org.

Sincerely,



Stacey Ober, JD
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England
AKC Government Relations

CC: Angela Ferrari, Dog Owners of the Granite State (DOGS)

¹ “Rescued Dog from Egypt Tests Positive for Rabies,” *Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Press Release* February 27, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at

<http://www.naiaonline.org/uploads/WhitePapers/RescueDogFromEgyptTestsPositiveForRabies.pdf>

² “Notice of Temporary Suspension of Dogs Entering the United States from Egypt” *United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Notice*, May 10, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/Egypt-dogs-temp-suspension.html>

³ “New strain of canine distemper virus arrives in North America,” *Cornell Chronicle*, March 25, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/03/new-strain-canine-distemper-virus-arrives-north-america>



February 2, 2021

Chairman Howard Pearl and Members of the House Environment & Agriculture Committee –

I am writing on behalf of Dog Owners of the Granite State (D.O.G.S.) to thank you for your consideration of HB 249, *relative to animal shelter facilities*. On behalf of our membership of responsible local pet owners and breeders, D.O.G.S. offers full **support** of this bill.

Current law requires all animal shelter facilities to own the building and surrounding area where they house animals. We believe there is no reason that these facilities could not be leased and shelters allowed to operate their business.

HB 249 also writes into law that registered owners or agents will be contacted if an animal is found by an animal shelter facility. If the primary owner is unable to be reached, the secondary owner listed on a microchip must be contacted. This helps ensure that all owners of an animal are contacted so they can reclaim the animal. Most breeders of dogs and cats have microchips registered that include primary and secondary owners information. This helps prevent any animals they produce from being rehomed by a shelter or rescue, as they take great pride in each animal they produce and want to know where it is for its full life and ensure that home is appropriate.

Current law does not require animal shelter facilities to obtain health certificates on dogs, cats, or ferrets. This puts New Hampshire residents and their animals at risk of highly contagious diseases, especially with the increase in these animals coming from southern states and other countries where these diseases are more prevalent and may not have requirements for vaccination. The adjustment in HB 249 to require health certificates ensures that animals being imported into NH for resale have had a health exam by a veterinarian who is licensed to issue a health certificate. While this won't guarantee health, it is a step in the right direction.

Again, thank you for your consideration of HB 249. We hope that you will vote to **pass** this bill.

Sincerely,

Angela Ferrari, President, Dog Owners of the Granite State

George Cook <georgecookiv@gmail.com>

Tue 2/2/2021 2:20 PM

?
?
?
?
?

To:

- ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee

I am writing in support of HB 249, particularly in reference to the additional protections added in Section 437:8 V. I am a hobby breeder with 40 years of experience, and the advent of the microchip as a form of positive identification has been an invaluable tool for the identification and recovery of any dog that may become lost. It is only logical that a shelter would want to provide that same protection for dogs being transferred out of their facility so that they may be easily rehomed with their adoptive family and not be returned as a burden to the shelter. Likewise, it is prudent public health policy to require that a shelter, as a vendor transferring dogs to the public, provide a dog that is properly vaccinated against rabies. I suspect that you may hear cries of “this is too expensive for us” that I suggest you ignore, as this is a part of their doing business. I maintain that the “adoption fees” that they collect on any transfer are adequate to fund their operation and provide a safely vaccinated animal.

The addition of a requirement to timely attempt to contact the owner of a dog that may be identified by its microchip is also in the best interest of both the owner of the lost dog and the shelter itself. Making a swift contact with the owner will reduce the time, and therefore expense, that a shelter would incur with a stray in their facility, and will be greatly appreciated by the owner stressing over the whereabouts of their lost dog. A win-win situation.

Finally, I strongly support the provisions included in 437:8 V. (f) regarding health certificates. Too many dogs are being imported into New Hampshire from the southern states, bringing with them diseases that are uncommon in our native dog population. Heartworm, parvovirus, leptospirosis and brucellosis are but a few of the known diseases that have been imported. Again it is sound public policy to require that the shelters respect the quarantine requirement, which at 48 hours is still too short, and that they be willing to attest to the health of a dog that they are transferring to the public by providing the new owner with a health certificate, same as is required to be provided by a private hobby breeder. I urge the committee to vote to support HB 249 and move this bill along for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

George Cook

Jefferson, NH

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:13:22 AM
From: [Gail K. DeMasi](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:11:13 PM
To: [~House Environment and Agriculture Committee](#)
Subject: Please support HB250, HB249, and HB366
Importance: Normal


Dear Committee Members,

I have become increasingly more concerned at the flavor and actual fine print of several animal bills over the past couple of years.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of these three bills: each is realistic, reasonable, and well put forth.

Sincerely,

Gail DeMasi
532 Aten Road
Munsonville, NH 03457


Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:55 AM
From: [J McMillan](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:10:57 PM
To: [~House Environment and Agriculture Committee](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 249
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[HB 249 Oppose.docx](#) 

Hello~

The Animal Control Officers Association opposes HB249. Please see attached letter.

Thank you,
Jana McMillan
ACOANH Secretary

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:56 AM
From: [Angela Ferrari](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:41:55 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: D.O.G.S. Supports HB 249
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[DOGS Support HB249.pdf](#) 

Dear House E&A Committee,

Attached please find the letter of support for HB 249.

Sincerely,
Angela

--

Angela Ferrari
603.769.0439

AKC Breeder of Merit
President, Dog Owners of the Granite State (D.O.G.S.)
Souhegan Kennel Club Treasurer
Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary
Doberman Pinscher Club of America Supporting Member
National Beagle Club Supporting Member



Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:56 AM
From: [Stacey Ober](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 1:35:32 PM
To: [~House Environment and Agriculture Committee](#)
Cc: [Angela Ferrari](#)
Subject: AKC supports HB 249 Animal Shelter Facilities
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
Testimony HB 249 Animal Shelters 2.3.21 FINAL.pdf ;

Good afternoon,

Attached please find testimony in support of HB 249 relative to animal shelter facilities.

Thank you,

Stacey Ober, J.D.

Legislative Analyst & Community Outreach, New England Region
Government Relations



t: 919-816-3348 | e: stacey.ober@akc.org

A Salute to AKC's Canine Health Foundation! Celebrating 25 Years with \$59.5 million funded to improve the health of all dogs and their owners through scientific research and dissemination of health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease. www.akcchf.org

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:56 AM
From: Tremblay Family
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:50:18 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB 250, HB 249, and HB 366.
Importance: Normal

Dear House Environment and Agriculture Committee Members,

Please support each bill I named in the
"Subject of this email."

HB 250 is important because it helps reputable breeders to sell purebred and working dogs which are important to so many people. I feel the number really should be more, but 35 is a minimum. I feel requiring pet vendor licenses is yet another way the highly paid Humane Society lobbyists are chipping away at people's ability to buy a purebred dog whose personality is known due to their genetics. They should stop spending money in the legislature and instead, start supporting shelters to spay and neuter the dogs and cats that come in.

HB 249 should be supported because it states exemptions to NH's current requirements that health certificates accompany dogs to shelters within the state. Retired greyhounds are already up to date on shots and are healthy before entering the state. Also, Galgoes from Spain are carefully vetted by those adoption groups before flying them across the ocean. However none of these exemptions should involve so-called "rescues" coming in from Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Many of these dogs do carry disease, and we really shouldn't be transporting actual "meat dogs" of unknown temperament anyway. That said, a lot of these "meat trade dogs" are really purebreds, born in foreign puppy mills.... something the HSUS wants shut down here!

HB 366 is important only because it requires treatment for hoarders. Hoarding is a sickness and these people need to be made aware of the fact that stuffing their home with too many dogs and cats or other animals doesn't give them a happy life.

Thank you for your time. Stay safe!
Wendi Tremblay
29 Norm's Way
Barrington, NH. 03825

Sent from my iPhone

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:56 AM
From: [George Cook](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:20:16 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Support of HB 249
Importance: Normal

I am writing in support of HB 249, particularly in reference to the additional protections added in Section 437:8 V. I am a hobby breeder with 40 years of experience, and the advent of the microchip as a form of positive identification has been an invaluable tool for the identification and recovery of any dog that may become lost. It is only logical that a shelter would want to provide that same protection for dogs being transferred out of their facility so that they may be easily rehomed with their adoptive family and not be returned as a burden to the shelter. Likewise, it is prudent public health policy to require that a shelter, as a vendor transferring dogs to the public, provide a dog that is properly vaccinated against rabies. I suspect that you may hear cries of "this is too expensive for us" that I suggest you ignore, as this is a part of their doing business. I maintain that the "adoption fees" that they collect on any transfer are adequate to fund their operation and provide a safely vaccinated animal.

The addition of a requirement to timely attempt to contact the owner of a dog that may be identified by its microchip is also in the best interest of both the owner of the lost dog and the shelter itself. Making a swift contact with the owner will reduce the time, and therefore expense, that a shelter would incur with a stray in their facility, and will be greatly appreciated by the owner stressing over the whereabouts of their lost dog. A win-win situation.

Finally, I strongly support the provisions included in 437:8 V. (f) regarding health certificates. Too many dogs are being imported into New Hampshire from the southern states, bringing with them diseases that are uncommon in our native dog population. Heartworm, parvovirus, leptospirosis and brucellosis are but a few of the known diseases that have been imported. Again it is sound public policy to require that the shelters respect the quarantine requirement, which at 48 hours is still too short, and that they be willing to attest to the health of a dog that they are transferring to the public by providing the new owner with a health certificate, same as is required to be provided by a private hobby breeder. I urge the committee to vote to support HB 249 and move this bill along for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
George Cook
Jefferson, NH

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:10:56 AM
From: [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:06:31 AM
To: ~[House Environment and Agriculture Committee](#)
Subject: Hb 250, 249 and HB366
Importance: Normal

I support the bills HB250 to increase the number of dogs you could transfer from 25 to 30. I also support the HB 249 in regards to notifying owners of their dogs being held (checking microchips within 72 hours of being taken) and also the HB 366 to check for mental illness on hoarding cases.
thank you

Kerry Rodgers
Derry, NH
(603)548-5621

-Kerry
kerry@rodgersworld.com



February 26, 2021

Environment and Agriculture Committee

Dear Committee Members:

The Animal Control Officers Association of New Hampshire OPPOSES HB 249, specifically, section V(b). Speaking for public pounds (municipal housing of strays) this puts a monetary burden on the town to pay for the vaccine, not to mention the time constraints of setting up the appointment and transporting the animal. Pounds do not have veterinarians on site.

Also, this seems to contradict NH RSA 436:107 which states “complying with the rabies vaccination requirement of this subdivision within 72 hours of release.” This places the responsibility and the payment on the owner.

Respectfully submitted by:

Animal Control Officers Association of New Hampshire

Jacob Hoag, President

Windham Police Department

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Windham, N.H. 03087

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AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Stacey Ober, J.D.
Legislative Analyst
Community Outreach
New England Region

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Howard Pearl, Chairman
New Hampshire House Committee on Environment and Agriculture
LOB Room 303
33 North State Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: American Kennel Club Supports HB 247 Relative to Animal Shelter Facilities.

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We represent over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 22 in New Hampshire, which represent thousands of responsible dog owners.

HB 247 makes clear that before re-homing any dog imported from outside New Hampshire, an animal shelter must provide an official health certificate, ensure the rabies vaccination is up to date, and comply with the state's quarantine requirements. The AKC strongly supports these provisions, as well as the bill's procedure for identifying and notifying the rightful owner of animals admitted to a shelter in a timely manner.

The inability to verify documentation has resulted in numerous incidents in which certifications of dogs imported into the country have been found by the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be invalid or fraudulent. While the importation of dogs helps meet the demand for personal pets and working dogs, incidents involving sick dogs entering the country are alarming public health officials. They include well-documented cases of rabies, distemper, influenza, brucellosis, parasites, and other health threats, many of which can be passed to humans and other animals and many of which had been virtually eliminated in the United States.

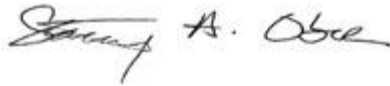
Several recent incidents highlight these dangers. In 2019, a dog imported from Egypt and ending up at a Kansas rescue was determined to have rabies, but not before all 25 of its companions had been placed into foster care or adopted.¹ United States officials suspect that the Egyptian vaccination certificates were forged. Because it was the third incident of its type in recent years, the CDC responded by imposing a ban on all imports of dogs from Egypt.² In 2018, scientists at Cornell University's Animal Health Diagnostic Center identified a strain of Asian canine distemper virus never before reported in North America, which likely travelled with a dog

obtained at a Korean meat market.³ A year before that, an epidemic of canine influenza was also traced to Asia.

In partnership with national experts such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, AKC has worked to file and pass the federal Healthy Dog Importation Act, which would streamline the federal oversight of canine imports to better protect animal and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please know that AKC and our affiliated dog clubs are interested in working with you on passage of HB 249. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org.

Sincerely,



Stacey Ober, JD
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England
AKC Government Relations

CC: Angela Ferrari, Dog Owners of the Granite State (DOGS)

¹ "Rescued Dog from Egypt Tests Positive for Rabies," *Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Press Release* February 27, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at

<http://www.naiaonline.org/uploads/WhitePapers/RescueDogFromEgyptTestsPositiveForRabies.pdf>

² "Notice of Temporary Suspension of Dogs Entering the United States from Egypt" *United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Notice*, May 10, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/Egypt-dogs-temp-suspension.html>

³ "New strain of canine distemper virus arrives in North America," *Cornell Chronicle*, March 25, 2019, accessed February 2, 2021 at <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/03/new-strain-canine-distemper-virus-arrives-north-america>

Bill as
Introduced

HB 249 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

7Apr2021... 0349h

2021 SESSION

21-0300
08/10

HOUSE BILL **249**

AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities.

SPONSORS: Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Lang, Belk. 4; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 9

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Allows animal shelters to own or lease their facilities.
- II. Clarifies which exemptions apply to animal shelters.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Definitions; Animal Shelter Facility. Amend RSA 437:1, I to read as follows:

2 I. "Animal shelter facility" means a facility, including the building and the immediate
3 surrounding area, which is used to house or contain animals and which is owned **or leased**, operated
4 and maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the
5 prevention of cruelty to animals, or other nonprofit organization devoted to the welfare, protection
6 and humane treatment of animals, and also a public pound for the housing of strays or a pound
7 operated by any person, excluding veterinarians, who contracts with a municipality to serve that
8 function.

9 2 Health Certificates for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets; Animal Shelters. Amend RSA 437:8, V to read
10 as follows:

11 V. Animal shelter facilities, as defined in RSA 437:1, I, are exempt from the requirements of
12 this section relative to transferring dogs, cats, and ferrets except that:

13 ***(a) All dogs, cats, or ferrets transferred out of an animal shelter facility shall***
14 ***have a form of positive identification, including, but not limited to a tattoo, collar,***
15 ***microchip, ear tag, or any other permanent form of identification approved by the***
16 ***commissioner.***

17 ***(b) All dogs, cats, or ferrets 3 months of age or older shall be vaccinated against***
18 ***rabies in accordance with RSA 436:100 before transfer, if proof of rabies vaccination is not***
19 ***available.***

20 ~~(c)~~ ***(c)*** All animal shelter facilities shall have on premises a microchip scanner and
21 shall maintain a file of recognized pet retrieval agencies, including but not limited to national tattoo
22 or microchip registries.

23 ~~(d)~~ ***(d)*** Where an owner is not known, all animal shelter facilities shall inspect for
24 tattoos, ear tags, or other permanent forms of positive identification and shall scan for a microchip
25 upon admission of an unclaimed or abandoned animal as defined in RSA 437:18, IV and prior to
26 transferring ownership of an unclaimed or abandoned animal. ***Registered owners or agents shall***
27 ***be contacted as soon as possible, not to exceed 72 hours, and alerted that the animal has***
28 ***been taken in and is available to be reclaimed.***

29 ***(e) If listed owners or agents cannot be located or refuse to reclaim possession of***
30 ***the animal, every effort shall be made to contact the secondary owner listed by microchip***
31 ***registries as soon as possible, not to exceed 72 hours.***

HB 249 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

- Page 2 -

1 (f) *No animal shelter shall transfer any dog, cat or ferret that is received from*
2 *outside of the state without an official health certificate and until the quarantine*
3 *requirements in 437:8, IV have been met.*

4 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.