

CHAPTER 214  
HB 249 - FINAL VERSION

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 214  
HB 249 - FINAL VERSION

7Apr2021... 0349h

21-0300  
08/10

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:*

1 214:1 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.

9 214:2 Health Certificates for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets; Animal Shelters. Amend RSA 437:8, V to  
10 read 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.***

CHAPTER 214  
HB 249 - FINAL VERSION  
- Page 2 -

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

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

214:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: August 17, 2021

Effective Date: October 16, 2021