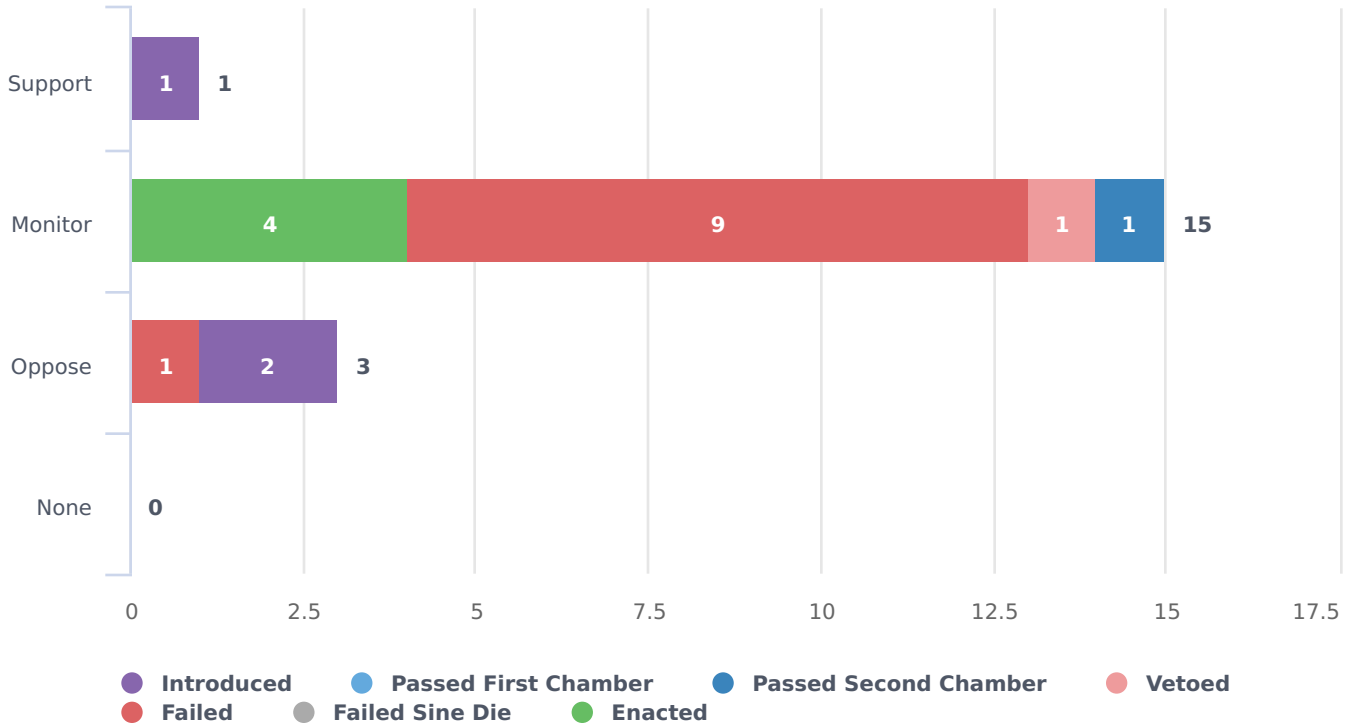


New Hampshire - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: June 21, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: NH (19)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 37	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 01 03 2024 Hj 1 P 51 2024 01 03	Failed	Monitor	High

Title
establishing a committee to study best practices for companion animal groomers.

Primary Sponsors
Jim Maggiore

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 18, 2022, 3:11 PM
An Act establishing a committee to study best practices for companion animal groomers. Provides that the members of the commission shall be as follows: 1) Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. 2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate. Provides that the committee shall study safety and facility standards; certification, licensure, and liability, waste and chemical disposal; and education, continuing education, and best practices for companion animal groomers in the state of New Hampshire. Provides that the commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk, the Governor, and the State Library on or before November 1, 2023.

Introduction Date: 2022-12-23

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 249	Signed By Governor Sununu 07 28 2023 Chapter 149 01 01 2024 Hj 17 2023 08 01	Enacted	Monitor	Low

Title
(New Title) establishing regulatory standards for the pet insurance industry and allowing restaurant owners to keep their dog on the premises.

Primary Sponsors
Jess Edwards

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Aug 8, 2023, 12:09 PM
Amends Title XXXVII (Insurance) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new Chapter 402-P (Pet Insurance) to establish regulatory standards for the pet insurance industry. Provides that purpose of this chapter is to promote the public welfare by creating a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in this state. Provides that the requirements of this chapter shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of this state, and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in this state. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance, except that the specific provisions of this chapter shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides for certain disclosures a pet insurer transacting pet insurance shall disclose to consumers (policy coverage exclusions, limitations, premiums) Provides that no pet insurer and/or producer shall market a wellness program as pet insurance. Provides that the Commissioner may adopt rules relative to the implementation of this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets. Also amends Title XLV (Animals), Chapter 466 (Dogs and Cats), Section 466:44 (Restaurants and Food Stores) to provide that a restaurant owner may allow his or her properly disciplined companion dog inside his or her place of business. Provides that such dogs shall not be allowed in food preparation or production areas. Provides that a restaurant owner allowing his or her companion dog shall prominently display a sign at all public entrances advising patrons that his or her companion dog is allowed on the premises and that such dog shall be removed from any portion of the premises where members of the public are present in the event a patron with a service animal is present.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-09

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 258	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv Bill Killed 05 11 2023 Sj 14 2023 05 11	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title
(New Title) relative to animal chiropractors.

Primary Sponsors
Diane Kelley

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 11, 2023, 1:28 PM
Amends Title XXX (Occupations & Professions), Chapter 332-B (NH Veterinary Practice Act) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to establish a certification for animal chiropractors. Provides that any chiropractor practicing chiropractic medicine on any animal shall meet the requirements of this section and any additional requirements set by the Board of Veterinarians and shall be certified by the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Provides that before treating an animal an animal chiropractor shall receive a referral from a licensed veterinarian. Provides that the Board shall adopt rules and additional criteria for the certification and continuing education requirements of animal chiropractors.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-09

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1102	Lay Hb 1102 On Table Rep Sweeney Ma Rc 232 140 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	In House	Oppose	High

Title
relative to the definition of animal cruelty.

Primary Sponsors
Ellen Read

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 30, 2023, 2:54 PM
Amends Title LXII (Criminal Code), Chapter 644 (Breaches of Peace & Related Offenses), Section 644:8 (Cruelty to Animals) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to add the sale of certain animals with deformities to the definition of animal cruelty. Provides that a person is guilty of a misdemeanor for a first offense, and of a class B felony for a second or subsequent offense, who sells an animal that has a birth deformity that causes suffering, such as brachycephaly, or the intentional breeding with the intent to sell, 2 individual animals with the same birth deformity that causes suffering, such as brachycephaly. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means a domestic animal, a household pet or a wild animal in captivity.

Introduction Date: 2023-11-28

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1117	Refer For Interim Study Ma Vv 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	In House	Support	Medium

Title
relative to creating a committee to study the protection of business operators against requests to accommodate customers with fraudulent or untrained service animals.

Primary Sponsors
Jerry Stringham

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 30, 2023, 3:07 PM
Creates a committee to study the protection of business operators against requests to accommodate customers with fraudulent or untrained service animals. Provides that the committee shall study the protection of business operators against requests to accommodate fraudulent or untrained service animals. Provides that the members of the committee shall be as follows: (1) 3 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and (2) 3 members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate. Provides that the committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk, the Governor, and the State Library on or before November 1, 2024.

Introduction Date: 2023-11-28

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1173	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to the disposition of vicious dogs.

Primary Sponsors
David Rochefort

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 30, 2023, 3:26 PM
Amends Title XLV (Animals), Chapter 466 (Dogs and Cats), Section 466:31 (Dogs a Menace, a Nuisance or Vicious) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to provide for the euthanizing of dogs that attack humans or domestic animals 2 or more times in a 12 month period. Provides that a finding by a court that a dog has attacked human being or a domestic animal which resulted in the puncture or tearing of skin, 2 or more times within a 12 month period, shall be per se evidence that the dog is vicious, and such dog shall be taken into custody by the police of the city, constable of the town, or other person authorized by the town, and the court shall order the dog to be euthanized.

Introduction Date: 2023-11-28

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1233	Vetoed By Governor Sununu 05 31 2024 Hj 15 2024 06 04	Vetoed	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to animal chiropractors.

Primary Sponsors
Diane Kelley

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 4, 2023, 2:53 PM
Amends Title XXX (Occupations & Professions), Chapter 332-B (NH Veterinary Practice Act) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new section to exempt individuals who have completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program, as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Professional Licensure & Certification, from veterinary licensure requirements. Exempts from veterinary licensure requirements animal chiropractic practice by an individual who has completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program as determined by the Executive Director in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A and in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1316	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to co-ownership of dogs.

Primary Sponsors
Mark MacKenzie

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 8, 2023, 1:28 PM
Amends Title XLV (Animals), Chapter 466 (Dogs and Cats), Section 466:6 (Group Licenses) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to exempt co-owners of dogs from certain registration requirements. Adds provision that an owner who claims co-ownership of a dog shall be exempt from the provisions of RSA 466:1-d (Lists of Licensed Dog Owners) to the extent registration records and informations shall be publicly available for all dogs on the property. Provides that an owner claiming co-ownership shall prove such co-ownership through means which may include registration and license information, veterinary records, adoption records, transfer of ownership agreement, or pedigree records.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-06

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1325	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 21 2024 Hj 9 2024 03 21	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to allowing private ownership of small tailed monkeys, raccoons, foxes, otters, skunks, and kangaroos.

Primary Sponsors
Tom Mannion

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 7, 2023, 3:00 PM
Amends Title XVIII (Fish & Game), Chapter 207 (General Provisions to Fish & Game), Section 207:14 (Import, Possession, or Release of Wildlife) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new paragraph allowing for private ownership of small tailed monkeys, raccoons, foxes, otters, skunks, and kangaroos. Adds a new paragraph III-a (Wildlife Division; Animals Allowed to Be Owned Without Permit) to provide that the following animals may be possessed as companion animals without a permit from the department: (a) Small tailed monkeys; (b) Raccoons; (c) Foxes; (d) Otters; (e) Skunks; and (f) Red tailed kangaroos.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-06

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1501	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title
repealing the requirement to register dogs annually.

Primary Sponsors
J. R. Hoell

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 12, 2023, 4:17 PM
Amends Title XLV (Animals), Chapter 466 (Dogs and Cats) to repeal the requirement that dogs be registered annually. Repeals the following sections: 466:1 (Procuring License; Tag); 466:1-a (Vaccination Required; 466:1-b (Rabies Certificate); 466:1-c (Authorization to Issue Licenses; Local Law Enforcement Officers); 466:1-d (Lists of Licensed Dog Owners); 466:2 (Part of Year); 466:3 (Transfer); 466:4 (Fees); 466:5 (Disposal of Fees); 466:6 (Group Licenses); 466:7 (Additional Charge Where Payment of License Fee is Delayed); 466:8 (Exemption From Fees for Registration and Licensing); 466:9 (Payment of Fees); 466:11 (Records); Section: 466:13 (Forfeiture); 466:13-a (Licensing of Cats); 466:14 (Warrants; Proceedings); 466:15 (Fees); 466:16 (Returns); 466:47 (License).

Introduction Date: 2023-12-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1505	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 21 2024 Hj 9 2024 03 21	Failed	Monitor	High

Title
establishing an animal abuse offender registry.

Primary Sponsors
Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 8, 2024, 4:29 PM
Amends Title LXII (Criminal Code) of New Hampshire Statutes by adding a new Chapter 651-G to establish a registry for persons convicted of animal cruelty. Provides that, beginning on January 1, 2026, the Department of Safety shall post a publicly accessible registry on its website of any person convicted of an animal abuse offense on and after that date. Provides that the Commissioner of the Department of Safety shall promulgate rules as to the establishment and maintenance of the animal abuser registry. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means a domestic animal, a household pet, or a wild animal in captivity. "Animal abuse offense" means cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8. "Companion animal" means any dog, defined as any live dog of the species *Canis familiaris*, or cat, defined as any live cat of the species *Felis catus*.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1526	House Concurs With Senate Amendment 2024 1848 S Rep C Mcguire Ma Vv 05 30 2024 Hj 15 2024 05 30	Passed Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

(New Title) relative to a conditional veterinary license for graduates of non-AVMA-accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

Primary Sponsors

Judy Aron

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 8, 2024, 4:44 PM

Amends Title XXX (Occupations & Professions), Chapter 332-B (NH Veterinary Practice Act), Section 332-B:11 (Reciprocity) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new paragraph establishing a conditional veterinary license for veterinarians educated in other countries. Provides that the Board may issue a conditional license to a foreign-educated veterinarian currently in the process of obtaining an ECFVG certificate who has completed all steps of the ECFVG except the clinical proficiency examination (CPE), on the conditions that the veterinarian has legal immigration status in the United States and verifiable status information as maintained by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, has applied to take (or retake) and is in the queue for the CPE, or has taken the CPE and is awaiting results, or has passed the CPE and has applied to write the New Hampshire examination, and providing such person is employed by and practices the profession under the supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian practicing in the state. Provides that a conditional license may be summarily revoked by a majority vote of the Board. For purposes of this section: "Board" means the NH Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1556	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 28 2024 Hj 10 2024 03 28	Failed	Monitor	Low

Title

relative to exemptions from the rabies vaccine.

Primary Sponsors

Keith Ammon

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Sep 26, 2023, 5:04 PM

Legislative Service Request (LSR) for a bill relative to exemptions from the rabies vaccine.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1680	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Rc 260 117 02 22 2024 Hj 6 P 102 2024 02 22	Failed	Oppose	High

Title

relative to prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops.

Primary Sponsors

Diane Kelley

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 16, 2023, 1:28 PM

Amends Title XL (Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 437 (Sale of Pets and Disposition of Unclaimed Animals), Sections 437:5 (Transfer of Animals & Birds - Prohibition), 437:7 (Exceptions) and 437:10 (Penalty) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet stores. Amends Section 437:5 (Prohibition) to provide that no retail pet store shall transfer a dog or cat, except as provided in Section 437:7 (Exceptions). Amends Section 437:7 (Exceptions) to provide that a retail pet store may transfer a dog or cat only if all of the following requirements are met: (1) The retail pet store was licensed as a pet vendor by the commissioner before effective date of this July 1, 2024. (2) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store has a valid pet vendor license issued by the commissioner. (3) The transfer would not cause the retail pet store to have more transfers of dogs or cats for the calendar year than the retail pet store completed in 2023. (4) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store remains in the same ownership as indicated on its most recent pet vendor license issued by the commissioner before the effective date of this section. (5) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store remains in the location as indicated on its most recent pet vendor license issued by the commissioner before July 1, 2024. (6) The retail pet store provides to the commissioner documentation of the ownership of the pet store as well as the number of dogs and cats transferred in 2023, and annually thereafter. Amends Section 437:10 (Penalty) to provide that each dog or cat transferred by a retail pet store in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense. For purposes of this section: "Retail pet store" to mean a pet vendor that transfers animals at retail to the public from a physical facility. "Retail pet store" does not include an "animal shelter facility."

Introduction Date: 2023-12-15

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1684	Inexpedient To Legislate Ma Vv 03 21 2024 Hj 9 2024 03 21	Failed	Monitor	High

Title
relative to loss of consortium.

Primary Sponsors
Dan Hynes

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2024, 4:35 PM
Amends Title LII (Actions, Process & Service of Process), Chapter 507 (Actions), Section 507:8a (Loss of Consortium) of New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated to provide that a person is entitled to recover damages for loss or impairment of right of consortium involving the death of that person's pet when caused intentionally or recklessly. Provides that, in a proper action, a person is entitled to recover damages for loss or impairment of right of consortium involving the death of that person's pet when caused intentionally or recklessly. Provides that, where fault on the part of the claimant is found to have caused, in whole or in part, the injury to the pet owner on which the claim for loss or impairment of consortium is based, damages recoverable shall be subject to diminution to the extent and in the manner provided for in Section 507:7-d (Comparative Fault). Section 507:7-d (Comparative Fault) provisions: Contributory fault shall not bar recovery in an action by any plaintiff or plaintiff's legal representative, to recover damages in tort for death, personal injury or property damage, if such fault was not greater than the fault of the defendant, or the defendants in the aggregate if recovery is allowed against more than one defendant, but the damages awarded shall be diminished in proportion to the amount of fault attributed to the plaintiff by general verdict. The burden of proof as to the existence or amount of fault attributable to a party shall rest upon the party making such allegation. For purposes of this section: "Loss of consortium" means the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, and moral support, the loss of the enjoyment of sexual relation of a spouse, or the loss of the ability to have children with a spouse.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-15

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	SB 162	Signed By The Governor On 06 20 2023 Chapter 0101 Effective 07 01 2023 2023 06 21	Enacted	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Primary Sponsors
Howard Pearl

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 23, 2023, 8:20 PM
Amends Title XL (Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 436 (Diseases of Domestic Animals), Section 100 (Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption) of NH Statutes to make the initial period for an exemption from the rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and animals annual with the recertification of a veterinarian. Provides that an exemption for a rabies immunization (where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants, by the local rabies control authority upon the written recommendation of a veterinarian) shall be valid for one year. Provides that after the initial one year has expired and if the animal still qualifies for the exemption, the exemption shall be recertified by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B on an annual basis.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-20

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	SB 385	Signed By The Governor On 05 31 2024 Chapter 0038 Effective 07 30 2024 2024 06 03	Enacted	Monitor	Low

Title
relative to the cost of care fund.

Primary Sponsors
Howard Pearl

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 13, 2023, 1:25 PM

Amends Title XL (Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Industry), Chapter 437-B (Cost of Care Fund) relative to the costs incurred caring for animals in animal cruelty cases. Provides that the arresting officer or his or her designee may apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food for a grant from the cost of care fund to reimburse OR PAY DIRECTLY TO A THIRD PARTY costs incurred caring for animals in animal cruelty cases during pretrial care, for the period between when the animals are seized and until the final disposition of the case. Removes requirement that the State Veterinarian review such applications (leaving just the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food).

Introduction Date: 2023-12-12

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	SB 541	Refer To Interim Study Ma Vv 02 15 2024 Sj 4 2024 02 15	In Senate	Oppose	High

Title
relative to retail pet stores.

Primary Sponsors
Dan Innis

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 15, 2023, 2:32 PM

Amends Title XL (Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 437 (Sale of Pets and Disposition of Unclaimed Animals), Sections 437:5 (Transfer of Animals & Birds - Prohibition), 437:7 (Exceptions) and 437:10 (Penalty) of NH Revised Statutes Annotated to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet stores. Amends Section 437:5 (Prohibition) to provide that no retail pet store shall transfer a dog or cat, except as provided in Section 437:7 (Exceptions). Amends Section 437:7 (Exceptions) to provide that a retail pet store may transfer a dog or cat only if all of the following requirements are met: (1) The retail pet store was licensed as a pet vendor by the commissioner before effective date of this July 1, 2024. (2) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store has a valid pet vendor license issued by the commissioner. (3) The transfer would not cause the retail pet store to have more transfers of dogs or cats for the calendar year than the retail pet store completed in 2023. (4) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store remains in the same ownership as indicated on its most recent pet vendor license issued by the commissioner before the effective date of this section. (5) At the time of transfer, the retail pet store remains in the location as indicated on its most recent pet vendor license issued by the commissioner before July 1, 2024. (6) The retail pet store provides to the commissioner documentation of the ownership of the pet store as well as the number of dogs and cats transferred in 2023, and annually thereafter. Amends Section 437:10 (Penalty) to provide that each dog or cat transferred by a retail pet store in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense. For purposes of this section: "Retail pet store" to mean a pet vendor that transfers animals at retail to the public from a physical facility. "Retail pet store" does not include an "animal shelter facility."

Introduction Date: 2023-12-14

State NH	Bill Number SB 587	Last Action Signed By The Governor On 06 14 2024 Chapter 0091 Effective 08 13 2024 2024 06 20	Status Enacted	Position Monitor	Priority Medium
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Title
relative to animals brought into this state.

Primary Sponsors
Howard Pearl

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
Amends Title XL (Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 437 (Sale of Pets and Disposition of Unclaimed Animals), Sections 437:8 (Health Certificates for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets) and 437:9 (Rulemaking Authority) relative to animals brought into New Hampshire. Adds provision that the Commissioner may adopt rules relative to exceptions to the quarantine requirements for individual animals that have entered the state and are intended for transfer that may allow them to share primary enclosures. Current quarantine requirement: Once a dog, cat, or ferret intended for transfer has entered the state, it shall be held at least 48 hours at a facility licensed under RSA 437 or at a facility operated by a licensed veterinarian separated from other animals on the premises before being offered for transfer.

Introduction Date: 2023-12-14