

HB 249 - AS INTRODUCED

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

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ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Allows animal shelters to own or lease their facilities.

II. Clarifies which exemptions apply to animal shelters.

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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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 shall be vaccinated against rabies in accordance***  
18 ***with RSA 436 before transfer, if proof of rabies vaccination is not available.***

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

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

28 ***(e) If listed owners or agents cannot be located or refuse to reclaim possession of***  
29 ***the animal, secondary contacts listed by microchip registries shall be contacted as soon as***  
30 ***possible, not to exceed 72 hours.***

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.