

LEGISLATIVE ALERT:

Take action before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16!

Thank you in advance for registering your support or opposition to the three bills that will be heard next **Tuesday, February 17** at the NH State House. All three require animal welfare advocates like you to speak out on behalf of shelter animals. The steps to take are simple and fast but make a tremendous impact on our representatives.

Please read below to learn about each bill and see what your ballot should look like if you want to help the animals:



BILL: SB475

ACTION: **SUPPORT**

WHY: This bill defines foster home and allows for their use when a veterinarian deems it in the best interest of the animal, explicitly including pregnant or lactating animals.

This would allow shelters to utilize foster homes based on the recommendations of veterinarians and the best practice recommendations of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. This bill ensures foster homes can be used when needed for the animals in our care, to include pregnant and nursing mothers and their babies, currently prohibited. This bill was created by the NH Federation of Humane Organizations to rewrite that narrative in a way that will allow shelters and rescues to do what is in the best interest of the animals in our care which regularly includes utilizing foster homes to provide round the clock care to newborns, pregnant females and nursing mothers.

Click [here](#), choose **Tuesday, February 17** and fill your ballot out like this:

Select the Committee:

Choose the Bill:

I am:

I'm Representing:

Indicate Your Position on this Bill
 Support this Bill Oppose this Bill I'm neutral on this Bill

Click "Continue" and follow the prompts.

BILL: SB442

ACTION: **OPPOSE**

WHY: This bill seeks to remove shelters' exemption for health certificates for in-state animals. Currently, we are only required to obtain Official Certificates of Transfer if an animal comes to us from another state.

Approximately 50% of animals come into care from NH residents or as strays from NH towns. If passed this requirement will have profound financial consequences for shelters/rescues across the state with no benefit to animals or public health. The new financial burden which would cost shelters thousands in additional veterinary fees and staff time while increasing the average length of stay for our shelter pets. Additionally, should an animal not be adopted within two weeks of obtaining their NH Health Certificate, they will have to be re-examined and issued a certificate every two weeks until the animal is adopted or until it has been at a shelter for one year. NH is already experiencing a shortage of veterinarians; this new requirement would require vets to spend more time pushing paperwork for healthy animals when they could be allocating their limited time to helping animals in actual medical need.

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Click "Continue" and follow the prompts.

BILL: SB535

ACTION: **OPPOSE**

WHY: This bill would raise the threshold to be a pet vendor from the transfer of 30 to 50 cats and/or dogs per year.

A pet vendor must be inspected by the state annually to ensure animals are receiving quality care. Shelters are also licensed with and inspected by the state annually. Raising the threshold to 50 animals will result in fewer inspections and more opportunities for animals to be at risk from poor care. Keeping the state transfer number at 30 provides a better chance for inhumane situations to be caught early and remedied before animals fall victim. This higher threshold would also encourage bad actors from other New England states to relocate here because we have the highest threshold before inspection is required.

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Click "Continue" and follow the prompts.

If you want to learn more about any of these bills, please click [here](#) and use the search feature on the left panel.

Congratulations! You have done your part to advocate for animals in need at the state level. Thank you so much for your help!



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