

# You have the power to help combat animal cruelty in New Hampshire.

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY AND NEGLECT?

1. Your first point of contact should always be local law enforcement—this is the only group that can enforce animal cruelty laws. Other resources who can assist law enforcement are listed below.
  - In some towns without a police department, this could be the sheriff's office or the state police.
  - Not every town has an animal control officer, and not every ACO has police powers.
2. Contact your local humane society. For a list of NH shelters, go to [nhfho.org/members](http://nhfho.org/members).
3. Contact a humane investigator.
  - NHSPCA: 603-772-2921 x111
  - Animal Rescue League of NH: 603-471-0888
  - Concord SPCA: 603-856-8756 x240
4. For complaints related to livestock, horses, pet stores, breeders, animal shelters and rescues or animal transports, contact the Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industries: 603-271-2404.
5. Contact The HSUS: 603-401-0287.
  - The HSUS can provide resources such as rewards and prosecution assistance to a responding agency.

### What NOT to do:

1. Do not post pictures, video or details of a potential situation on social media. This could alert the perpetrator that law enforcement is on the way.
2. Do not trespass on private property. Any videos or pictures must be taken from public property or seen from the road per NH law. Trespassing can put you, law enforcement and the animals at risk.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

### PUPPY MILLS

Puppy mills are breeding factories that churn out puppies in terrible conditions. To report a puppy mill, call **877-MILL-TIP**.

### CRUELTY REWARDS

The HSUS will pay a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an animal abuser. Call **1-877-TIP-HSUS** or email [crueltyresponse@humanesociety.org](mailto:crueltyresponse@humanesociety.org)

### ANIMAL FIGHTING

The HSUS will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an animal fighter. Call **1-877-TIP-HSUS** for more details.

# Pertinent New Hampshire laws

## **(RSA 644:8) Cruelty to Animals**

*Misdemeanor*

**III.** A person is guilty of a misdemeanor for a first offense, and of a class B felony for a second or subsequent offense, who:

**(a)** Without lawful authority negligently deprives or causes to be deprived any animal in his possession or custody necessary care, sustenance or shelter;

**(b)** Negligently beats, cruelly whips, tortures, mutilates or in any other manner mistreats or causes to be mistreated any animal;

**(c)** Negligently overdrives, overworks, drives when overloaded, or otherwise abuses or misuses any animal intended for or used for labor;

**(d)** Negligently transports any animal in his possession or custody in a manner injurious to the health, safety or physical well-being of such animal;

**(e)** Negligently abandons any animal previously in his possession or custody by causing such animal to be left without supervision or adequate provision for its care, sustenance or shelter; or

**(f)** Otherwise negligently permits or causes any animal in his possession or custody to be subjected to cruelty, inhumane treatment or unnecessary suffering of any kind.

**IV.** a.(b) For purposes of subparagraph (a) the investigating officer for livestock, as defined in RSA 427:38, III, shall be accompanied by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B or the state veterinarian who shall set the probable cause criteria for taking the animal or animals.

## **(RSA 435:14) Equine Shelter**

Horses shall be provided either:

**I.** An adequately ventilated, dry barn with stalls of sufficient size so that the horse is able to lie down, and shall be provided adequate and suitable exercise in arenas, barn yards, paddocks or pastures; or

**II.** A roofed shelter, with at least 3 sides from November 1 through April 15, shall be provided for horses kept in paddocks or pastures, and said horses shall not be kept tied but shall be able to move around freely.

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## **(RSA 644:8) Cruelty to Animals**

*Felony*

**III-a.** A person is guilty of a class B felony who purposely beats, cruelly whips, tortures, or mutilates any animal or causes any animal to be beaten, cruelly whipped, tortured, or mutilated.

## **(RSA 644:8-a) Animal Fighting**

*Felony*

**I.** No person shall keep, breed, or train any bird, dog, or other animal, with the intent that it or its offspring shall be engaged or used in an exhibition of fighting, or shall establish or promote an exhibition of the fighting thereof. Whoever violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty of a class B felony.

**II.** Any person present at any place or building when preparations are being made for an exhibition of such fighting with intent to be present at such exhibition, or present at, aiding in or contributing to, such an exhibition, shall be guilty of a class B felony.

## **(RSA 644:8-aa) Animals in Motor Vehicles**

**I.** It shall be cruelty to confine an animal in a motor vehicle or other enclosed space in which the temperature is either so high or so low as to cause serious harm to the animal. "Animal" means a domestic animal, household pet, or wild animal held in captivity.

**II.** Any person in violation of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor as set forth in RSA 644:8.

**III.** Any law enforcement officer or agent of a licensed humane organization may take action necessary to rescue a confined animal endangered by extreme temperatures, and to remove the threat of further serious harm.

The Humane Society of the United States  
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Washington, D.C. 20037  
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