

1 S.8

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; cruelty to animals; bovine tail docking

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit the practice of tail
7 docking on a bovine unless tail docking is performed by a veterinarian in order
8 to relieve pain to or save the life of the animal.

9 An act relating to docking the tail of a bovine

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 351 is amended to read:

12 § 351. DEFINITIONS

13 As used in this chapter:

14 (1) "Animal" means all living sentient creatures, not human beings.

15 (2) "Secretary" means the ~~secretary of agriculture, food and markets~~
16 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

17 * * *

18 (7) "Necessary medical attention" shall include ~~but not be limited to~~
19 medical treatment for illness, injury, disease, excessive parasitism, or
20 malformed or overgrown hoof.

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2 (11) "Livestock" means cattle, bison, horses, sheep, goats, swine,
3 cervidae, ratites, and camelids.

4 * * *

5 (13) "Livestock and poultry husbandry practices" means the raising,
6 management, and using of animals to provide humans with food, fiber, or
7 transportation in a manner consistent with:

8 (A) husbandry practices recommended for the species by agricultural
9 colleges and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service;

10 (B) husbandry practices modified for the species to conform to the
11 Vermont environment and terrain; and

12 (C) husbandry practices that minimize pain and suffering.

13 * * *

14 (19) "Bovine" means an animal of the family bovidae.

15 (20) "Docked tail" means a bovine tail that has been subject to tail
16 docking.

17 (21) "Tail docking" means a procedure that cuts, alters, or removes the
18 bone, muscles, or tendons of the tail for any purpose, including the shortening
19 of a tail.

1 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 367 is added to read:

2 § 367. TAIL DOCKING OF A BOVINE

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person shall not:

4 (1) perform a tail docking procedure on a bovine; or

5 (2) import into the state a bovine with a docked tail.

6 (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a person who performs a
7 tail docking on a bovine in order to relieve the pain of or save the life of the
8 animal, provided that the procedure is performed:

9 (1) by a veterinarian licensed under 26 V.S.A. § 2425;

10 (2) after adequate anesthesia is administered to the bovine; and

11 (3) in a manner that minimizes long-term pain to the bovine.

12 (c) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than
13 two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

14 (d) Enforcement actions for violations of this section shall not require
15 consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets pursuant to
16 section 354 of this title.

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.