



88 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452  
(802) 878-6888 voice • [www.vtvets.org](http://www.vtvets.org) • [kathy@vtvets.org](mailto:kathy@vtvets.org)

**Testimony of Kathryn Finnie  
Executive Director  
House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products  
H. 218 an act relating to adequate shelter of dogs and cats  
February 24, 2017**

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association is pleased to have the Animal Shelter bill before the legislature again. We thank Representative Bartholomew for his leadership on this, as well as his work as chair of the Animal Shelter Working Group in the last legislative session. This bill was developed through a collaboration of animal welfare professionals, animal groups and veterinarians.

As you are aware, the two major issues for proposed new language relating to dogs and cats are (a) minimum size of living space for dogs and cats (where a living space is a principal primary housing) and (b) adequate shelter for dogs maintained outdoors in enclosures, with proposals for standards of construction, and conditions of temperature, shade etc.

The VVMA believes that these changes will provide humane investigators with a more specific checklist and measurable standards when they review cases of alleged animal cruelty, and we strongly support passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.