

1 H.254

2 Introduced by Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland, Bock of Chester, and
3 O'Brien of Tunbridge

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Agriculture; crimes; livestock; adequate shelter

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to define
8 adequate natural shelter, adequate constructed shelter, and adequate ventilation
9 for the management of livestock animals. The bill also would require livestock
10 animals confined in enclosed areas to be provided adequate exercise. In
11 addition, the bill would require a livestock animal on a leash, rope, or chain to
12 be affixed in a manner that prevents the livestock animal from becoming
13 entangled or injured and permits the livestock animal access to adequate
14 shelter, adequate food, and adequate water.

15 An act relating to adequate shelter for livestock

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

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

18 § 351. DEFINITIONS

19 As used in this chapter:

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

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

2 * * *

3 (15) “Living space” means any cage, crate, or other structure used to
4 confine an animal that serves as its principal, primary housing and that
5 provides protection from the elements. Living space does not include a
6 structure, such as a doghouse, in which an animal is not confined, or a cage,
7 crate, or other structure in which the animal is temporarily confined.

8 (16) “Adequate food” means food that is not spoiled or contaminated
9 and is of sufficient ~~quantity and quality~~ nutritional content to meet the normal
10 daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal and the
11 environment in which it is kept. An animal shall be fed or have food available
12 at least once each day, unless a licensed veterinarian instructs otherwise; or
13 withholding food is in accordance with accepted veterinary practices or
14 livestock and poultry husbandry practices.

15 (17) “Adequate water” means potable water that is either accessible to
16 the animal at all times or is provided at suitable intervals for the species and in
17 sufficient quantity for the health of the animal. In no event shall the interval
18 when water is not provided exceed 24 hours. Snow or ice is not an adequate
19 water source unless provided in accordance with livestock and poultry
20 husbandry practices.

1 (18) ~~“Adequate shelter” means shelter which protects the animal from~~
2 ~~injury and environmental hazards. [Repealed.]~~

3 (19) “Enclosure” means any structure, fence, device, or other barrier
4 used to restrict an animal or animals to a limited amount of space.

5 (20) “Livestock guardian dog” means a purpose-bred dog that is:

6 (A) specifically trained to live with livestock without causing them
7 harm while repelling predators;

8 (B) being used to live with and guard livestock; and

9 (C) acclimated to local weather conditions.

10 (21) “Sexual conduct” means:

11 (A) any act between a person and animal that involves contact
12 between the mouth, sex organ, or anus of a person and the mouth, sex organ, or
13 anus of an animal; or

14 (B) without a bona fide veterinary or animal husbandry purpose, the
15 insertion, however slight, of any part of a person’s body or of any instrument,
16 apparatus, or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of an animal.

17 (22) “Adequate constructed shelter” means a well-drained and
18 structurally sound building with a waterproof roof that is of sufficient size to
19 provide a windbreak and protection from exposure to prevailing winds, rain,
20 hail, sleet, snow, and sun and that provides enough space to accommodate at
21 one time all livestock and animals comfortably. The building opening size and

1 height shall, at a minimum, allow six inches of clearance above the largest
2 animal's ears when the animal is standing in a normal position and the
3 clearance shall be maintained at that level even with manure and litter buildup.

4 (23) "Adequate natural shelter" means a natural structure or formation,
5 including a stand of trees that:

6 (A) is a well-drained area of sufficient size to provide a windbreak
7 and protection from exposure to prevailing winds, rain, hail, sleet, sun, and
8 snow; and

9 (B) provides enough space to accommodate at one time all livestock
10 or animals maintained out-of-doors in the area.

11 (24) "Adequate ventilation" means that ventilation in an enclosed or
12 confined area shall be sufficient to control excessive ambient temperatures and
13 to prevent the accumulation of toxic gases, such as ammonia.

14 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 365 is amended to read:

15 § 365. SHELTER OF ANIMALS

16 (a) Adequate shelter. All livestock and animals that are to be predominantly
17 maintained in an outdoor area shall be provided with adequate natural shelter
18 or adequate constructed shelter to prevent direct exposure to the elements.

19 (b) Shelter for livestock.

20 (1) ~~Adequate natural shelter, or a three-sided, roofed building with~~
21 ~~exposure out of the prevailing wind and of sufficient size to adequately~~

1 ~~accommodate all livestock maintained in an outdoor area shall be provided.~~
2 ~~The building opening size and height shall, at a minimum, extend one foot~~
3 ~~above the withers of the largest animal housed and shall be maintained at that~~
4 ~~level even with manure and litter build-up. Livestock animals confined in~~
5 ~~enclosed areas shall be provided with adequate ventilation and shall have~~
6 ~~access to adequate exercise. Equines housed within a designated space~~
7 ~~continually, without free access to a paddock, turn out, or other exercise area~~
8 ~~shall be provided the opportunity for periodic exercise, either through free~~
9 ~~choice or through a forced work program, to maintain normal muscle tone and~~
10 ~~mass for the age, size, and condition of the animal or in accordance with~~
11 ~~accepted agricultural or veterinary practices.~~ Nothing in this section shall
12 control dairy herd housing facilities, either loose housing, comfort stall, or
13 stanchion ties, or other housing under control of the Agency of Agriculture,
14 Food and Markets. This ~~section~~ subdivision shall not apply to any accepted
15 housing or grazing practices for any livestock industry.

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection,
17 livestock may be temporarily confined in a space sufficient for them to stand
18 and turn about freely, provided that they are exercised in accordance with
19 livestock and poultry husbandry practices, and are provided sufficient food,
20 water, shelter, and proper ventilation.

