



Vermont Humane Federation

PO Box 311, Waterbury, VT 05676
www.vermonthumane.org

April 30, 2026

Dear Members of the Vermont Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The Vermont Humane Federation (VHF), a strong collaborative network of 19 local organizations that tackles critical issues such as animal cruelty, pet homelessness, and legislative advocacy, benefiting both the animals and people of Vermont, extends its thanks and gratitude for your attention to and support of H.578.

Among other things, H.578 reduces the duration that seized animals need to be held. Unlike many states, Vermont does not have public shelters that must hold animals seized as a part of cruelty cases. Instead, it is reliant on private nonprofits for this. These organizations require assurance that hold times for animals will not exceed their capacity to provide effective assistance for the animals seized while they continue to serve their communities' animals and people. Moreover, holding social animals like dogs and cats in kennels and cages for months on end while the cases work their way through the legal system means these animals suffer and degrade and, at times, have no outcome other than being euthanized by the time they are finally released.

On behalf of the VHF, I thank you again for all your work on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stanley
President, Vermont Humane Federation

VHF members are: Addison County Humane Society – Homeward Bound • Central Vermont Humane Society • Felines and Friends • Franklin County Animal Rescue • Francis of Assisi Society for Animals • HEART Wildlife Removal • Humane Society of Chittenden County • Kingdom Animal Shelter • Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society • North Country Animal League • PAWSitive Pantry • Protect Our Wildlife • Riverside Rescue • Rutland County Humane Society • Spay ASAP, Inc. • Springfield Humane Society • VT Disaster Animal Response Team • VT-CAN! • Windham County Humane Society