

TITLE XL

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

CHAPTER 437

SALE OF PETS AND DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED ANIMALS

Importation and Sale

Section 437:10

437:10 Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. –

I. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee without first being protected against infectious diseases using a vaccine approved by the state veterinarian. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee unless accompanied by an official health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian. No transfer shall occur unless the transferred animal is accompanied by a health certificate issued within the prior 14 days. Said certificate shall be in triplicate, one copy of which shall be sent to the state veterinarian, one copy of which shall be for the licensee's records, and one copy of which shall be given to the transferee upon transfer as provided in paragraph II. If an official health certificate is produced, it shall be prima facie evidence of transfer.

II. The original of the official health certificate accompanying the dog, cat, or ferret offered for transfer by a licensee shall be kept on the premises where dogs, cats, and ferrets are displayed, and made available for inspection upon request. The public will be informed of their right to inspect the health certificate for each dog, cat, or ferret by a sign prominently displayed in the area where the dogs, cats, or ferrets are displayed. Upon transfer of the dog, cat, or ferret, this health certificate shall be updated by the licensee if any other medication or treatment has been given by a licensed veterinarian or the licensee to the dog, cat, or ferret and shall be given to the transferee in addition to any other documents which are customarily delivered to the transferee. The transferee may accept a dog, cat, or ferret that has a noncontagious illness that has caused it to fail its examination by a licensed veterinarian for an official health certificate under paragraph I; the transferee shall sign a waiver that indicates the transferee has knowledge of the dog, cat, or ferret's noncontagious medical condition and then submit such waiver to the licensee who shall send a copy to the state veterinarian.

III. Animal shelter facilities, as defined in RSA 437:2, I, are exempt from the requirements of this section relative to transferring dogs, cats, and ferrets except that:

(a) All animal shelter facilities shall have on premises a microchip scanner and shall maintain a file of recognized pet retrieval agencies including but not limited to national tattoo or microchip registries.

(b) Where an owner is not known, all animal shelter facilities shall inspect for tattoos, ear tags, or other permanent forms of positive identification and shall scan for a microchip upon admission of an unclaimed or abandoned animal as defined in RSA 437:18, IV and prior to transferring ownership of an unclaimed or abandoned animal.

(c) All animal shelters shall comply with the provisions of RSA 437:10, V and RSA 437:13-a, IV.

IV. No person, firm, or corporation shall ship or bring into the state of New Hampshire, to offer for transfer in the state of New Hampshire, any cat, dog, or ferret less than 8 weeks of age. No licensee shall offer for transfer any cat, dog, or ferret less than 8 weeks of age.

V. Once a dog, cat, or ferret intended for transfer has entered the state, it shall be held at least 48 hours at a facility licensed under RSA 437:1 or at a facility operated by a licensed veterinarian separated from other animals on the premises before being offered for transfer.

Source. 1985, 72:1. 1995, 202:13, eff. June 12, 1995. 1998, 368:3, eff. Aug. 25, 1998. 2002, 13:1, eff. May 24, 2002. 2007, 160:5, eff. Aug. 17, 2007. 2009, 296:7, eff. Sept. 29, 2009. 2012, 115:1, eff. Aug. 4, 2012. 2013, 38:5, 6, eff. Aug. 3, 2013. 2014, 23:2, eff. Jan. 1, 2015.