



February 3, 2026

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee:

On behalf of the state's equestrian community, the New Hampshire Horse Council is submitting its opposition to HB 1766. We represent over 300 individuals and nearly a dozen affiliate organizations who are actively engaged with the New Hampshire equine industry.

We believe this bill is short-sighted and would reduce our state's already meager protections for both livestock and companion animals in cases of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment. The proposed revisions to RSA 644:8 would remove the safety net for animals in dire need of timely contact, evaluation, and possible intervention. Further, the State Veterinarian's Office is not adequately equipped to cover our state's 11 counties, encompassing more than 9,000 square miles, on its own. When animals are truly suffering, time is critical if life saving measures are to be implemented.

Additionally, provisions within the proposed bill would put it in conflict with other existing legislation, and would be in direct violation of decades of established precedent when it comes to ensuring the safety and well-being of animals at risk.

This is not the time for New Hampshire to take backward steps when it comes to its animal protection laws. We urge the Committee to take strong, appropriate action and vote this proposed bill "inexpedient to legislate."

Sincerely,
Christina Keim, President
New Hampshire Horse Council