

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2018-2019 BIENNIUM
FORM E - NECESSARY STATUTES OR RULE CHANGES**

E NECESSARY STATUTES OR RULE CHANGES

| | CODE | DESCRIPTION |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| CATEGORY | 02 | ADMIN OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PRTN |
| DEPARTMENT | 00018 | AGRICULTURE DEPT OF |
| AGENCY | 018 | AGRICULTURE DEPT OF |
| ACTIVITY | ANI182010 | DIV ANIMAL INDUSTRY |

ANI182010 Division of Animal Industry (DAI)

RSA 437 should be amended to reflect that the department no longer inspects premises used "in the business of transferring...to the public, live animals or birds customarily used as household pets" rather focuses solely on animal health regulation. Every entity transferring a dog/cat/ferret would still need to: keep thorough health records; have a veterinarian develop, implement, and supervise animal health programs; provide at least one vaccine prior to transfer; adhere to certificate of veterinary inspection standards for imports; have the animal examined for a post-importation health certificate from a NH-licensed veterinarian; adhere to the existing return guarantee, enforced by administrative fines. Statute should be re-organized to be more consistent with livestock dealer licensing, RSA 427:38-47, where licensing is required of any entity "in the business of". In this statute, the

focus is on animal health regulation, while premises, buildings, and conveyances "may be" inspected. In a re-organized RSA 437, premises inspections could still be conducted by local officials should they choose to do so. Local officials should also have the autonomous authority to sanction and/or shut down premises based on poor premises inspections. Animal welfare complaints are responsibility of law enforcement by existing statute, so any concerns about animal welfare would still be covered under RSA 644:8. Animal health regulation would still be left to the department. The department does not believe once-per-year premises inspections, as currently required in RSA 437, contribute substantively to maintaining or improving animal health or welfare though they consume enormous resources that will be re-directed to other work that is currently languishing for lack of resources.