

RELEASE: Legislation Protecting Animals From Abuse Becomes Law



Rachel Cole
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New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Majority Office

PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Rep. Katherine Rogers
(603) 271-2136

LEGISLATION PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM ABUSE BECOMES LAW

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, Governor Sununu signed [HB 605](#), which creates criminal penalties for possession, transfer, or manufacture of animal fighting paraphernalia with the intent to be present at, aid in, or contribute to such fighting. **Representative Katherine Rogers (D-Concord)**, prime sponsor of the legislation, released the following statement:

“This bill is critically important to stopping the heinous act of animal fighting in New Hampshire and prosecuting those who organize and engage in it. In recent years, inadequate and unenforceable laws have prevented law enforcement from effectively addressing animal fighting rings in our state.”

“Currently, New Hampshire statute requires that someone be caught in the act of animal fighting to be prosecuted. HB 605 allows for law enforcement to make an arrest when animal fighting paraphernalia evidence found at a scene corroborates information that the individual intends to use the objects in animal fighting. This legislation also allows for law enforcement to act when they receive evidence that animal fighting breeders are selling or transferring animals for the purpose of fighting, which will undoubtedly prevent many innocent creatures being trafficked into violence.”

“Often, the same people that engage in animal fighting have criminal backgrounds involving other acts of violence. This legislation will not only save the lives of animals in New Hampshire but will better protect our communities from violent activity. I thank the Governor for signing this important legislation to stop the cruel practice of animal fighting in New Hampshire.”

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Rachel Brady Cole

Legislative Policy Assistant

House Majority Office

State House Room 313

603-271-2136

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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