

1 H.665

2 Introduced by Representative Webb of Shelburne

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; humane and proper treatment of animals; agricultural events

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to limit the giving away of a live  
7 animal as an award in a game, contest, or lottery at events that are funded and  
8 conducted by an agricultural or sporting association and to prohibit the sale or  
9 giving away of puppies and kittens less than eight weeks old unless they are in  
10 lots of six or more.

11 An act relating to giving away animals as awards or prizes

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 351 is amended to read:

14 § 351. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 \* \* \*

17 (14) "~~Agricultural or sporting~~ Sporting association" means an  
18 organization or association determined by the secretary.

19 \* \* \*

1           (19) “Agricultural event” means a public event, conducted by an  
2           agricultural association and recognized by the secretary as an agricultural  
3           event, which features the animals and practices associated with agriculture and  
4           animal husbandry. This term does not mean a carnival or similar event, even if  
5           the carnival or similar event is associated, by contract or otherwise, with an  
6           agricultural association or what is otherwise an agricultural event.

7           (20) “Agricultural association” means any nonprofit or cooperative  
8           association of farmers, growers, or ranchers, incorporated or qualified, with the  
9           primary goal of promoting the various segments of the agricultural sector, and  
10           as determined by the secretary.

11       Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 366 is amended to read:

12       § 366. PROHIBITED USE OF ANIMALS

13           (a) No live animal shall be used as a fund-raising device or award in or in  
14           the conduct of a contest, lottery, game, or promotion by any person or entity  
15           other than at an event ~~recognized~~ at which the contest, lottery, game, or  
16           promotion is funded and conducted by an agricultural or sporting association.

17           An alternative cash prize of equivalent retail value shall be offered. A person  
18           or entity shall not transfer or award an animal without:

19           (1) Providing written instructions that include professionally recognized  
20           standards for transportation and care for the animal transferred or awarded and

1 all local environmental factors that may affect adequate transportation and  
2 care.

3 (2) Obtaining reasonable assurance that the person receiving the animal  
4 will provide proper transportation and adequate care.

5 (b) No live fowl, turtles ~~or~~, rabbits, kittens, or puppies under eight weeks of  
6 age in lots of less than six shall be offered for sale or sold, displayed, or given  
7 away.

8 (c) A person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of not more  
9 than \$250.00. Each use of an animal in violation of this section shall constitute  
10 a separate offense.

11 \* \* \*