



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2024-01

An order re-establishing the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

WHEREAS, domesticated animals provide support, companionship and assistance to many citizens of the State of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, abuse of domesticated animals is both unacceptable and criminal, and will not be tolerated in the State of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of animal abuse is important to the safety and welfare of New Hampshire citizens; and

WHEREAS, a Governor's Task Force Regarding the Humane Treatment of Animals was established by Executive Order 2004-5 and then re-established through a Commission by Executive Orders 2006-03, 2016-1, 2017-04 (as amended by Executive Order 2017-05) and 2021-07; and

WHEREAS, changes to the Commission are necessary in order to enable the Commission to operate more effectively and efficiently.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. There is hereby established the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals. The Commission shall:

a) Prepare a biennial report for the Governor that documents:

1. the number of animal-cruelty related convictions in that time period;
2. the number of animal-cruelty related cases in that time period;
3. relevant proposed or enacted legislation and changes in statute and administrative rules; and
4. suggested legislation as necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of domestic animals and New Hampshire citizens.

b) Research, evaluate and determine possible resources available for emergency housing, transportation, and care for seized animals, professional training for law enforcement and the judiciary, as well for funding for

- forensics, lab work, radiographs, necropsies, and euthanasia/disposal and other necessary investigative and care costs. Research, evaluate and support legislation to prevent and address animal cruelty and neglect.
- c) Maintain a Commission website that includes access to the Commission's Animal Cruelty Law Enforcement Resources Document.
 - d) Support or seek support for any proposed legislation or regulations, provided that such support shall only be sought with the approval of the Governor.

2. The Commission shall consist of the following members who shall be nominated by the organization listed for appointment by, and to serve at the pleasure of, the Governor:

- a) Six New Hampshire citizens who are informed and concerned about animal abuse prevention;
- b) A cruelty investigator employed by a licensed humane society;
- c) A representative from a national humane organization who is a resident of New Hampshire;
- d) A member of the Animal Control Officers Association of New Hampshire;
- e) A representative of the New Hampshire Police Chiefs Association;
- f) A representative of the New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations;
- g) A representative of the New Hampshire Sheriff's Association;
- h) The New Hampshire State Veterinarian or designee;
- i) A representative of the New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association;
- j) A representative of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Association;
- k) A representative of sportsmen interests;
- l) A member of a New Hampshire equine association or organization;
- m) A member representing canine owner interests, nominated jointly by the New Hampshire musher's association and the Dog Owners of the Granite State;
- n) A representative of the New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association;
- o) A representative from the UNH Cooperative Extension;
- p) A state representative recommended by the Speaker of the House; and
- q) A state senator recommended by the Senate President.

3. The Governor shall appoint the chair from the membership. The Governor may also appoint one or more co-chairs from among the membership, and such co-chairs shall count toward a quorum and be entitled to vote on Commission recommendations. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair but not less than four times per calendar year. A quorum shall consist of eight members, and decisions of the Commission shall require the approval of a majority of those members present and voting.

4. Executive Order 2021-07 is hereby withdrawn and replaced by this Executive Order, which shall be effective immediately.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 11th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-seven.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE