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States' Animal Identification Statutes:

Vermont



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

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The statutes are current through Chapters 185 (end) and M-28 (end) of the Adjourned Session of the 2023-2024 Vermont General Assembly (2024).

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 768. Duties of dealers, transporters, and packers.

A livestock dealer, transporter, or packer licensed under section 762 of this title shall:

- (1) Maintain in a clean and sanitary condition all premises, buildings, and conveyances used in the business of buying, selling, or transporting livestock or operating a livestock auction or sales ring.
- (2) Submit premises, buildings, and conveyances to inspection and livestock to inspection and test at any and such times as the Secretary may deem it necessary and advisable.
- (3) Allow no livestock on livestock dealer's premises from herds or premises quarantined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.
- (4)
 - (A) Maintain, subject to inspection by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or his or her agent, a record compliant with applicable State and federal statutes, rules, and regulations specified by the Secretary, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Traceability rule, 9 C.F.R. Part 86 . When not required under the



requirements set forth in State and federal statute, the records required under this subdivision shall include:

- (i) all livestock purchased, repossessed, sold, or loaned by a livestock dealer, transporter, or packer;
- (ii) the complete name and address of the person from whom livestock was obtained and to whom delivered; and
- (iii) the official individual identification number that is required to be applied to each livestock under the requirements of sections 1460, 1461, and 1461a of this title.

(B) For equine livestock, the requirements for the records to be maintained and the method of individual identification are set forth under chapter 102, subchapter 2 of this title.

(5) Abide by other reasonable rules that may be adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to prevent the spread of disease. A copy of all applicable rules shall be provided to all livestock dealers, packers, and transporters licensed under the terms of section 762 of this title at the time they first obtain a license.

(6) Pay the seller within 72 hours following the sale of the animal or animals.

(7) [Repealed.]

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1152. Administration; inspection; testing; records.

(a) The Secretary shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Livestock Disease Control Program. The Secretary may appoint the State Veterinarian to manage the Program, and other personnel as are necessary for the sound administration of the Program.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain a public record of all permits issued and of all animals tested by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this chapter for a period of five years.

(c) The Secretary may conduct any inspections, investigations, tests, diagnoses, or other reasonable steps necessary to discover and eliminate contagious diseases existing in domestic animals in this State. The Secretary shall investigate any reports of diseased animals, provided there are adequate resources. In carrying out the provisions of this part, the Secretary or his or her authorized agent may enter any real estate, premises, buildings, enclosures, or areas where animals may be found for the purpose of making reasonable inspections and tests. A livestock owner or the person in possession of



the animal to be inspected, upon request of the Secretary, shall restrain the animal and make it available for inspection and testing.

(d) The Secretary may contract and cooperate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other federal agencies or states, and accredited veterinarians for the control and eradication of contagious diseases of animals. The Secretary shall consult and cooperate, as appropriate, with the Commissioners of Fish and Wildlife and of Health regarding the control of contagious diseases.

(e) If necessary, the Secretary shall set priorities for the use of the funds available to operate the Program established by this chapter.

(f) Any commercial slaughterhouse operating in the State shall maintain and retain for three years records of the number of animals slaughtered at the facility, the physical address of origination of each animal, the date of slaughter of each animal, and all official identification numbers of slaughtered animals. A commercial slaughterhouse shall make the records required under this subsection available to the Agency upon request.

(g) Records produced or acquired by the Secretary under this chapter shall be available to the public, except that:

- (1) the Secretary may withhold from inspection and copying records that are confidential under federal law; and
- (2) the Secretary may withhold or redact a record to the extent needed to avoid disclosing directly or indirectly the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1162. Report of disease.

(a) All accredited veterinarians shall immediately report the discovery of any domestic animal within this State that is infected with, is suspected of being infected with, or has been exposed to a reportable disease as specified by this chapter. A veterinarian shall immediately report any sudden unexplained morbidity or mortality in a herd or flock located within the State. The report shall be made to the State Veterinarian and shall specify the physical address where the animal is located; identification and description of the animal; the disease or condition suspected or diagnosed; and the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the owner or person in possession of the animal.

(b) All persons operating diagnostic laboratories shall immediately report the diagnosis of any domestic animal within this State that has a reportable disease as specified by this chapter. The report shall be made to the State Veterinarian and, in addition to the information required under subsection (a) of this



section, shall include a copy of the test chart pertaining to the animal in question.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1181. Certification required.

(a) Any equine animal imported into the State or transported through the State shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection. The certificate shall state that the equine animal has been tested negative for equine infectious anemia (EIA) by an accredited veterinarian.

(b) Any equine animal purchased, sold, offered for sale, bartered, exchanged, or given away within the State, or imported for one of these purposes, shall be tested by an accredited veterinarian and certified as negative for equine infectious anemia in accordance with rules adopted by the Secretary as provided by subsection (f) of this section. A test for equine infectious anemia shall not be required when:

- (1) the transfer of ownership is between the owner of the animal and his or her spouse, child, or sibling and where the animal is not moved to new premises; or
- (2) the animal is consigned directly to slaughter.

(c) Whenever the Secretary has reason to believe that any equine animal has been exposed to equine infectious anemia and that the animal may pose a threat to other equine animals, the Secretary may require that the animal be tested for equine infectious anemia by an accredited veterinarian or by a State or federal veterinarian approved by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary may require by rule that any equine animal transported to any fair, show, competition, or other gathering of equine animals be accompanied by a certificate that states that the equine animal has been tested and found negative for equine infectious anemia.

(e) The Secretary shall establish by rule the form and manner of required certifications and the periods of time within which testing and certification of equine animals shall be accomplished.

(f) The Secretary shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 for the purchase by a livestock dealer for resale or for slaughter of equine not known to be tested for equine infectious anemia, as authorized by subsection (b) of this section. The rules shall include specifications governing equine quarantine facilities, procedures for equine animals of unknown EIA status intended for resale to be retested, procedures for handling equine animals of unknown EIA status purchased for slaughter, and record-keeping requirements for livestock dealers.



Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1460. Interstate movement; administration.

(a) In order to implement the requirements of this chapter and chapter 63 of this title related to the licensing of livestock businesses, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall require importers of livestock or poultry into the State to comply with minimum requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Traceability rule, 9 C.F.R. part 86, including any future amendments to the rule.

(b) In order to prevent the introduction or spread of contagious disease, or to ensure adequate animal traceability within this State, the Secretary may adopt rules to mandate stricter movement requirements than those required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Traceability rule.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1461. Import and export documentation required.

(a) Import permit. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may require a person who imports or causes to be imported into this State any domestic animal except dogs and cats to first obtain an import permit from the Secretary, except as the Secretary may provide by rule. Permits shall be issued in a manner approved by the Secretary.

(b) Certificates of veterinary inspection. No person shall import or cause to be imported any domestic animal into this State without first obtaining a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, except as the Secretary may provide by rule. The certificate shall be issued by an accredited and licensed veterinarian in the state or country of origin. The certificate shall contain a statement by the state animal health official for that state certifying that the veterinarian who executed the certificate is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in that state or country and is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sign a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. The certificate shall be issued electronically or on a form prescribed by the state of origin and declare that all of the animals listed have been inspected or tested, or both, as required by the applicable State and federal statutes, rules, and regulations. The certificate shall also set forth the name and address of the owner of any animal transferred pursuant to the certificate. One copy of the certificate shall accompany the animals during transportation, and one copy shall be filed with the Secretary. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that is issued electronically shall meet the data standards established by the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials in consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(c) Exemption. The Secretary may, by rule, exempt from the provisions of this section transactions concerning domestic animals transported into this State for immediate slaughter. A person who so imports an animal



without a permit and then does not immediately slaughter the animal shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

(d) Exportation. A person wishing to export domestic animals to another state or country shall comply with all the requirements of that state or country for the importation of domestic animals.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1461a. Intrastate movement.

(a) Except as provided under subsection (b) of this section, all livestock being transported within the State shall satisfy the requirements for official identification for interstate movement under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Traceability rule, 9 C.F.R. Part 86, including any future amendments to the rule, prior to leaving the premises of origin, regardless of the reason for movement or duration of absence from the premises.

(b)

(1) Livestock transported from the premises of origin for purposes of receiving veterinary care at a hospital in this State are exempt from the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, provided that the livestock are returned to the premises of origin immediately following the conclusion of veterinary care.

(2) The Secretary, by procedure, may waive the requirements of subsection (a) for certain types or categories of intrastate transport of livestock.

(c) Livestock and poultry that are transported to a commercial slaughter facility within the State shall not be removed from the facility without the facility's owner's first obtaining written permission from the State Veterinarian. For purposes of this section, arrival of the conveyance onto facility property and the offloading of livestock or poultry constitutes transport to a slaughter facility, regardless of whether the animals have been presented for antemortem inspection. The State Veterinarian may require inspection and testing prior to issuing consent for removal.

(d) Vermont-origin livestock and poultry that are transported to a slaughter facility outside this State shall not be removed from the facility and returned to Vermont without the facility's owner first obtaining written permission from the State Veterinarian. For purposes of this section, arrival of the conveyance onto facility property constitutes transport to a slaughter facility, regardless of whether the animals have been offloaded or presented for antemortem



inspection. The State Veterinarian may require inspection and testing prior to issuing consent for removal.

(e) A person shall not transport out-of-state livestock or poultry into Vermont for slaughter or other purpose without written consent from the State Veterinarian if the livestock or poultry is classified as a suspect or a reactor by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or was exposed to livestock or poultry classified as a suspect or a reactor.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1470. Records.

(a) A commercial slaughter facility operating in the State shall maintain and retain for three years records of the number of animals slaughtered at the facility, the physical address of origination of each animal, the date of slaughter of each animal, and all official identification numbers of slaughtered animals. A commercial slaughterhouse shall make the records required under this subsection available to the Agency upon request.

(b) Records produced or acquired by the Secretary under this chapter shall be available to the public for inspection and copying, except that:

(1) the Secretary may withhold from inspection and copying records that are confidential under federal law; and

(2) the Secretary may withhold or redact a record to the extent needed to avoid disclosing directly or indirectly the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses.

Vt. Stat. tit. 6 § 1476. Misuse or removal of official identification devices.

A person who, without authority from the Secretary, removes or causes to be removed from an animal any official identification device as defined in 9 C.F.R. § 86.1, or otherwise misuses or causes an official identification device to be misused, may be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

Vt. Stat. tit. 13 § 2012. Misrepresenting livestock.

(a) A person shall not make false or fraudulent representations for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of registration of an animal in a herd register or other register of a club, association, society, company, or corporation.

(b) A person shall not make false or fraudulent representations for the purpose of transfer of such certificate of registration.

(c) A person shall not fraudulently represent that an animal is a registered animal, or has been registered, with the intent that such representation shall be relied upon by another.



(d)

(1) A "person" under this section is a person as defined in 1 V.S.A. § 128.

(2) A "registered animal" is an animal duly registered as a purebred in the official herd book or similar register of any recognized purebred registry association organized for the purpose of registering a particular breed of animals whose lineage has been established by registry records.

(3) An animal has been "registered" when it qualifies as a registered animal as defined in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(e) A person who violates a provision of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section shall be fined not more than \$300.00 and shall be liable civilly for damages.

