

~Working Farm Dogs~

H. 62 Will Help Them Do Their Work!

Farm dogs have helped farmers for generations to get work done on the farm. These dogs do a variety of jobs for farmers – including protecting livestock and poultry from predators, chasing pests out of the crops, bringing stray animals back to the farm, and warning of intruders. A good farm dog is an integral part of the labor force of the farm.



In town, however, dogs have a very different role. In populated areas where dogs are pets and not part of the “workforce,” it is appropriate to ensure that they are not bothering neighbors. Many towns have adopted ordinances to prohibit dogs from barking, and also from running free, so that neighbors can live peacefully near others who have dogs for pets.



As the line between “farm country” and town blurs, however, these ordinances sometimes cause problems for the farm dogs who need to do their work. Because in some places it is not legal for dogs to bark and run free, these working farm dogs are getting their owners in trouble with local officers when the dogs are carrying out their farm duties.

The Working Farm Dog bill (H. 62) would allow working farm dogs to run and bark on the farm, while herding or protecting animals or crops.

In order to qualify, the dog would have to be “bred or trained to herd or protect livestock or poultry or to protect crops and (be) used for those purposes.” The dog would also have to be registered as a “working farm dog” with the town. The farmer would have to pay \$5 to the town for this designation and affirm that the dog is a working farm dog.



The dog would only be allowed to run free and bark on the farm when it is carrying out its farm duties – herding or protecting livestock, poultry, or crops.