

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO STUDY THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMANE IMPLICATIONS OF PERSISTENTLY TETHERING DOMESTIC DOGS.

WHEREAS, tethering a dog is the practice of fastening or chaining a dog to a stationary object or ground stake as a means of keeping the dog under control; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for dogs not to be vicious; and

WHEREAS, the American veterinary medical association task force on canine aggression and human-canine interactions concludes that tethering dogs contributes to aggressive behavior; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture issued a statement on July 2, 1996 against tethering, stating in the *Federal Register*, "Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury"; and

WHEREAS, tethered dogs account for twenty-five percent of human fatalities from dog bites; and

WHEREAS, tethered dogs are often frustrated, frightened and easily agitated; and

WHEREAS, tethered dogs are nearly three times as likely to attack than non-tethered dogs; and

WHEREAS, children are the most common victims of dog attacks; and

WHEREAS, tethered dogs kill more children annually than attacks on children from scorpions, hornets, wasps, bees, venomous snakes, lizards and spiders combined; and

WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of the annual cost for medical treatment for dog bites is two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000), even though less than one-fifth of the victims of dog bites seek medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred municipalities and four states across the United States limit or prohibit the tethering of dogs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of public safety be requested to conduct a study to investigate the public safety and humane implications of persistently tethering dogs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be completed by December 1, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the department of public safety.