



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR A.54-A/S.6315-A

**TO: ASSEMBLYMEMBER LUPARDO, CHAIR, AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE;
SENATOR HINCHEY, CHAIR, AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

CC: ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROSENTHAL AND SENATOR BRISPORT



This is an act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the tethering of dogs.

While some restrictions on the tethering of animals are codified and enforced in New York State, and some local governments have passed even more specific restrictions, many of these restrictions are vague, contradictory or unnecessarily complicated. More uniform restrictions need to be put in place on a state level so that law enforcement and animal control officers can better enforce the law, ensure compliance and protect vulnerable animals.

This bill prohibits tethering, restraining, caging or penning of dogs between the hours of 10 pm to 6 am. A dog may be tied, tethered, caged or penned between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm provided it is not inhumane, doesn't cause the animal to choke, permits the dog to escape harm, and to reach food, water, shade and dry ground. A cage or pen must be four times the height and length of the dog.

Time after time, dogs who are chained up become more aggressive and violent and are less able to protect themselves or their families. Chained dogs are killing U. S. kids. A continuously chained dog is three times more likely to bite. Kept "out of sight, out of mind" in the back yard, chained dogs are often deprived of adequate food, water, and veterinary care—in addition to having their emotional and social needs completely ignored. Many are denied proper shelter and have nothing but an overturned trash bin or plastic barrel, or nothing at all, to shield them on freezing winter nights. Countless chained dogs have frozen to death during cold snaps or died of heatstroke on sweltering summer days. Collars often become embedded in the dog's neck causing painful open wounds and infection.

Chained dogs are also totally vulnerable to other animals and cruel people, and many chained dogs have been stolen, set on fire, shot, stabbed, tortured, or poisoned by a cruel passersby or neighbors who were annoyed by their barking.

We can't think of a crueller punishment for these social pack animals who want and deserve companionship, scratches behind the ears, walks around the block, and the opportunity to curl up at their guardians' feet at night *indoors*.

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS® OF NEW YORK STRONGLY SUPPORTS A.54-A/S.6315-A

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.