

TESTIMONY
SB 30

Testimony for SB30 on 1302009 30000 PM
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 9:38 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: aabaer@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB30 on 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM SB30

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Baer
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei Rd Kihe, HI
Phone: 808-875-1477
E-mail: aabaer@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2009

Comments:

Please vote to prohibit the tethering of dogs. It violates their basic nature, and provides a constant source of frustration to them. This also promotes aggressive behavior.

1/29/2009

WTL 01-30-09, SB 30

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

Prohibits, with exceptions, the practice of tethering dogs.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony, supporting this legislation.

Below are 5 reasons why we need to ban chaining of dogs by owners.

1) Chaining dogs makes them more aggressive

Boxers are not known as ferocious fighting dogs. The Website www.boxer-dog.org describes the breed as "energetic, playful, loyal, family-oriented."

Ashley Evans, 2, has evidence to the contrary all over her body.

The toddler was in her aunt's yard in the 3400 block of Ohio in Dickinson, when she wandered toward her aunt's dog, chained to a tree.

The dog mauled the child and later charged a police officer, who shot the animal. County Animal Control officers later euthanized the dog.

The problem was not the dog's breed, but its confinement, experts say. Animal experts and handlers say dogs chained to fixed objects and left unattended often became aggressive and territorial.

Chained dogs typically lack adequate veterinary care, food, water or shelter, and are often deprived of exercise and interaction with their families.

Chained dogs often spend little time around people and other animals, stunting the dogs' social development. Also, dogs are territorial by nature, and when their territory shrinks to the circumference of a chain, they defend their areas fiercely.

2) Dog fighters do not like anti tethering laws.

90% of the time, fighting dog breeders are against anti-tethering laws, because it would make their job harder. Dogs bred and trained for fighting (mostly pit bulls) would kill one another if they were housed together.

Since kenneling dogs individually is costly, most breeders simply separate fighting dogs by tethering them with heavy chains to the ground or a stationary object. Banning or regulating chaining practices would take a huge bite out of the blood sport of dog fighting.

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

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3) Having new rules on the books will give county animal control officers additional tools to protect both dogs and human life

In Galveston, TX, 90 percent of calls handled concerning aggressive dogs, involve chained animals.

Kim Schoolcraft, director of the Galveston, TX County Animal Control division of the health district, said a dog's nature was to be part of a pack or family.

"When a dog is isolated every day, for extended periods, it's going to take a psychic toll, just like it would on a human being," Schoolcraft said.

Galveston County's animal shelter, is one of many shelters in the county, that requires dog adopters to sign a contract saying they will not chain the dogs.

4) Children raised in a home, where dogs are chained and penned, are being psychologically and emotionally abused, living in an environment where moral standards (and the essence of humanity) are lacking. Children, in those situations, who love animals, are unquestionably being subjected to "parent abuse".

5) When a dog is chained or penned, what purpose can it serve if a perpetrator targets that home?

Conclusion:

Mr. Chairman and valued members of the committee, when it comes to preventing animal abuse, there is no single magic bullet. Our goal is to slow the number of animal abuse cases, and improve the quality of life, not only of innocent helpless animals, but the humans who live and interact with them. This task won't be easy, and it won't be possible at all, without your continued support for this effort.

Thank you.,

Anu Kothandaraman

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 2:04 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB30; WTL; Friday, 1/30/09; 3PM; Rm 229

Importance: High

SB30, Relating to Animals
WTL; Chair, Senator Hee

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.

Thank you so much for hearing this bill. As you know, anti-tethering bills are proliferating all across the country as people come to realize how inhumane it is to treat loving, sweet, sensitive and intelligent animals with such total disregard for their lives. All dogs want is human companionship; that is what they live and breathe for. Tethering deprives them of their most basic needs, and treats them as though they are not sentient, caring beings.

Tethering for long periods is the absolute opposite of what defines us as human: our ability to understand and care for those who are dependent upon us.

This bill will help families become more whole, and will provide them with an opportunity to interact with their chosen pet companions in ways that will lead to immeasurable benefits for all involved.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your hearing this bill. I hope the committee will **pass** it unanimously.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. **Joel Fischer**, ACSW
President, 19-3, **Democratic party**

Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 4:25 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: mailtoshyam@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB30 on 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM SB30

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shyam
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O.Box 1111 Puunene HI
Phone: 8082986002
E-mail: mailtoshyam@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2009

Comments:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony, against chaining or tethering dogs to a fixed place. Below are 4 reasons why we need to ban chaining of dogs by owners:

1. People own dogs for companionship. If owners cannot let their dogs stay indoors, they don't need a dog in the first place.
 2. Tethering dogs for long periods of time makes them aggressive, even vicious.
 3. Tethering dogs for long periods of time is cruelty, plain and simple. How many people would like to undergo this treatment?
 4. If owners believe that tethered dogs provide security they are mistaken. Tethered dogs are hardly in a position to prevent a trespasser from trespassing.
- Kindly pass legislation to prevent such inhumane treatment of animals.

From: Jessica Porter [mailto:jmlporter@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Sen. Dwight Takamine; Sen. Clayton Hee
Subject: Senate Bill #30 and #79

individual

Senators,

Please PASS senate bill #30, making tethering illegal, as this is a needless practice that DOES cause dogs to act more aggressively due to improper (if any) socialization.

Also consider creating bills that restrict breeding ALL dogs/cats in Hawaii, heavy fines for unneutered/spayed animals (ones that are not purebred and used at most once a year for breeding) and punishments for owning an aggressive dog. In the delicate ecosystem that is Hawaii, breeding is irresponsible as the islands are overpopulated with dogs and cats as is.

Jessica Porter

Special Education Preschool Teacher from the Big Island/.

From: stephryan7@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:12 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Anti tethering legislation

Dear People of Hawaii,

Dogs are pack animals. It is physically and emotionally painful for dogs to be tied and isolated from the family unit. Animals feel the same physical and emotional pain as humans. The only difference is their level of intelligence.

Research shows that many dogs especially the larger breeds have the intelligence level of a five year old child. You wouldn't tie up your toddler and isolate them from the rest of the family.

Let us grow and evolve with the spirit of ohana and aloha.

Thank you,
Stephanie Ryan
President of Hawaii Dog Foundation
808-349-3475
Sent from my iPhone

Support

Date: January 29, 2009

Testimony for Hawaii Dog Foundation regarding Measure SB 30 - Prohibits, with exceptions, the practice of tethering dogs.

We, the members of Hawaii Dog Foundation, support measure SB 30. Hawaii Dog Foundation is a non-profit organization that rescues homeless dogs, including abandoned and neglected dogs, and finds new homes for them. Hawaii Dog Foundation's mission is also to promote responsible dog ownership.

We have personally and extensively witnessed the psychological and physical damage that a dog experiences when tethered for long periods of time. Below are just a few of the reasons that we consider tethering inhumane (taken from the HDF Humane Education website):

- * A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement, therefore causing frustration and boredom. Dogs are social animals; they need interaction with humans and other animals to survive.
- * A tether can become tangled around a dog's neck or body and potentially cause injury or death. Dogs on chains or tethers frequently tug and pull against their restraints; this can cause their necks to be rubbed raw underneath their collars.
- * Evidence has shown that dogs that started out friendly and well-behaved became unhappy, anxious, or even aggressive when they were kept on a chain.
- * Tethered dogs often have no shelter from the elements. A dog that lives on a chain has no place to retreat from extreme weather conditions -- like the intense heat of many Hawaiian days.
- * Dogs are usually not chained in a comfortable environment. The dog is forced to eat, sleep, urinate, and defecate all in the same confined space.

Signed,

The members of Hawaii Dog Foundation
Stephanie Ryan, Kyoko Nakayama, Sachi Kaulukukui, Todd Kaulukukui

TESTIMONY
SB 30
(END)