

S.841, a bill which adds provisions for **DOG TETHERING** to the cruelty of animals' law, was given a favorable with amendment recommendation by the committee. The bill outlines that a dog tethered unattended for more than two hours shall be provided continuous access to food, water and shelter, and the chain, rope, cable, trolley or running line to which the dog is attached must be at least twelve feet long. The bill also outlines that it is unlawful to tether a dog by means of a choke collar or prong collar. The bill increases the penalties for violations.

The bill provides that under certain circumstances, a litter of unidentifiable dogs or cats four months or age or younger may be turned over to an organization. It further outlines that all healthy unidentifiable stray cats found or picked up from an outside may be sterilized within twenty-four hours and returned to the area in which they were found twenty four hours after surgery. The bill deals with the cost of care for any person, organization or other entity that is awarded custody of a pet because of the arrest of a defendant for a violation.

The bill also states that under certain conditions, during an emergency or natural disaster, a veterinarian or veterinarian technician who is not licensed in the state but is licensed and is in good standing may practice veterinary medicine related to the response efforts in locations if an official declaration of a state of an emergency has been made by the Governor.