

STOP
ANIMAL
CRUELTY

2024

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS



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

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

The League of Humane Voters® of New York
Cell Phone: 914-388-5221 email: annemuller@lohvny.org

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS



2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS

INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® 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. LOHV® works for animal protection by:

- Lobbying for animal-friendly legislation;
- Campaigning for candidates who support animal protection;
- Being a strong political voice for all animals – domestic, wildlife, farm, and animals who suffer from abuse and exploitation;
- Demonstrating that animal advocates are a substantial voting bloc.

THE LOHV DELIVERS THE VOTE

The LOHV® recognizes that animal protection requires laws and enforcement. Animal exploitation is a political issue and not just a moral one. Our goal is to make animal protection a mainstream political issue by building support among citizens, activists, political parties, and elected representatives.

Those who hold elective office can pass laws to protect animals. LOHV® endorses candidates and then campaigns for their election to public office. We help to get out the vote for our candidates. Once in office, we lobby office holders to enact animal protective legislation.

LOHV® is strictly non-partisan.

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PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring public schools to offer plant-based food options in food service.

<p>A.3708 Assembly Member Rajkumar</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: Epstein, Woerner, Paulin, Thiele, Reyes, Jean-Pierre, Taylor, Glick, Seawright, Hyndman, Dickens, Fall, Sayegh, Williams, Darling, Weprin, Stern, Simon, Jackson, Kelles, McMahon, Rosenthal L., Dinowitz, De Los Santos, Bores, Raga, McDonald, Ardila, Sillitti, Levenberg, Simone, Shimsky, Hevesi, Colton, Clark</p> <p>REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair</p>	<p>S.996 Senator Hoylman-Sigal</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: Addabbo Jr., Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Kavanaugh, Myrie, Rivera, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis</p> <p>REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair</p>
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Children enjoy trip to Farmers Market in NYC



Children play with NYS Grown Dry Beans in Ithaca

NYS grown Dry Beans, Vegetables, Grains & Fruits and NYS made Tofu can be used in School Lunches to Create Plant-Based Entrees

Cost Neutral or Cost Savings...Supports New York State Farms...

Delicious...Healthy...Better for Children...Better for the Environment...Better for Animals

BACKGROUND:

- Research shows that the more plant-based foods a person eats, the lower their risk of overweight/obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Research also shows that overweight/obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure can be successfully reversed with a low-fat plant-based diet. For example, NYC Mayor Eric Adams reversed his type 2 diabetes.
- **Many schools already offer plant-based entrees, which already fit into the food budget. If plant-based entrees cost more, all the schools that already offer plant-based entrees would not be able to do so.**
- According to research published in the Journal of Science, significantly reducing the consumption of animal products is the single biggest action an individual can take to address climate change.
- NYC schools began offering at least two cold plant-based entrées every day and a plant-based hot entrée every Friday in all 1700 schools. They also allow schools to opt in to a fully plant-based menu. **The plant-based menu costs less to produce than the standard menu.**
- Schools want students to participate in the meal program. If students want to eat healthy, why wouldn't a school want to support them? Students who consume more plant-based foods will have a stronger immune system which is always important but especially now due to the recent pandemic and those that will likely occur in the future.

*Images and health statistics from Coalition for Healthy School Food * www.healthyschoolfood.org*

Our Children's Health is at Risk... Plant-Powered Options Help Them Practice What We Teach

STATISTICS:

- One out of three children and seven out of ten adults are overweight or obese.
- 50% of children between the ages of 2 – 15 already have fatty streaks in their arteries, literally early-stage heart disease.
- Children as young as 8 years old are being prescribed cholesterol and blood pressure-lowering drugs.
- Type 2 diabetes, formerly called “adult-onset”, is becoming increasingly more common in school-age children.
- **33% of all US children will end up with type 2 diabetes at some point in their lives. 40 – 53% of African American and Latino children will get type 2 diabetes at some point in their lives... if their diets don’t dramatically change.**
- 35% of cancer deaths are caused by diet. Processed meats (deli slices, hotdogs, sausage, pepperoni, bacon, etc.) are classified as Group 1 Carcinogens, known to cause cancer in humans, according to the World Health Organization. While NYC has removed processed meat from their menus, most schools around NYS continue to serve them.
- Research funded by the National Cancer Institute shows that milk and dairy products may be associated with an increased risk for breast cancer and prostate cancer. Red and processed meat and eggs are associated with increased risk of prostate cancer.

SUMMARY OF BILL

- Upon request by a student or person in parental relation to the student, public schools will offer the student a plant-based food option as an alternative to meals and snacks already offered through the food service department, in order to make any reimbursable meal or snack completely plant-based (vegan). The public school's written material describing food offerings will include the availability of a plant-based food option.
- “Plant-based” is defined as being free of all animal products. The USDA recognizes many options to meat and dairy for the “Meat/Meat Alternate” component of the meal, including beans, lentils, tofu, tempeh, and products derived from them.
- Schools are required to respond in a reasonable manner and time to such requests.

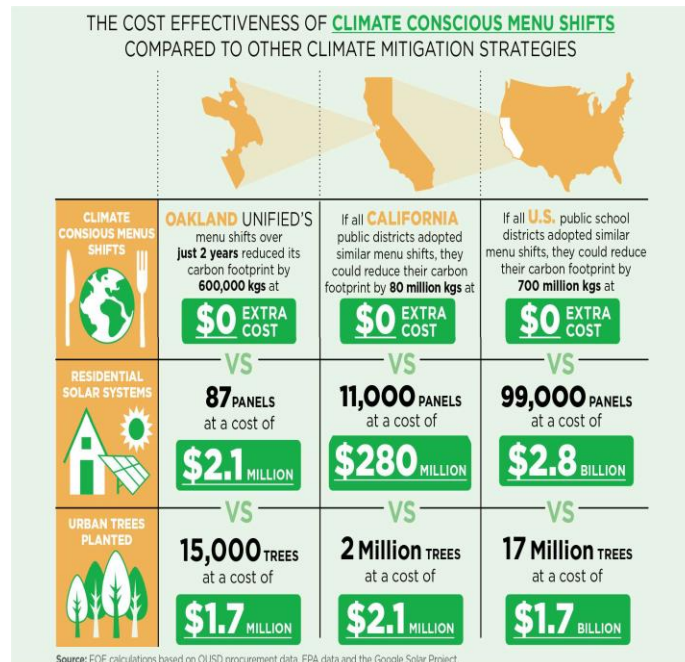


Student enjoys tofu tried rice using NYS Tofu

All 1700 schools in NYC serve plant-based (vegan) meals on Fridays (they do offer a cheese option as well for students who do not want to eat the vegan meal, and cow’s milk is offered at each meal).



Plant-powered food from around the world



- ❖ New York City and Ithaca public schools already offer at least one plant-based meat alternate per day.
- ❖ New York City offers schools the option of a completely vegetarian menu.
- ❖ Ithaca menus offer plant-based hot entrees at least one time per week and at least two cold plant-based options per day.
- ❖ Many schools in New York State already offer plant-based options.
- ❖ Plant-Based Options result in better attendance, grades, and behavior!

- ❖ Research from Friends of the Earth shows that switching to more plant-based meals results in carbon savings that would cost millions of dollars to achieve through technology, at the same time saving the school district \$42,000 over the study period of two years.

Research from Friends of the Earth, www.foe.org

SECONDARY HUMANE EDUCATION

An act that expands the requirements for teaching humane education of animals to secondary school students; requires verification of compliance.

A.416 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.4533 Senator Harckham
Co-Sponsors: Colton, Thiele, Stern, Dinowitz, Simone, Kelles, Davila	Co-Sponsors: Addabbo Jr.
Multi-Sponsors: Glick, Simon	
REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair	REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair

When children are taught kindness to animals in their formative years, it is a skill and mindset that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



BACKGROUND:

- Educating students on how to respect animals will help to raise empathetic and compassionate citizens.
- There is a direct tie between violence towards animals and violence towards humans.
- Teaching students to treat ALL living beings with respect is a preventative measure towards possible future violence.
- Teaching children to care for and protect animals will also help to protect local ecological systems.
- Such classes would also educate students on local animal cruelty laws pertaining to abandonment, tethering, and other issues. This will help them to recognize animal abuse when they see it and to become better pet owners and more compassionate citizens.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Such curriculum will be wholly or partly publicly funded, as part of a typical school curriculum.
- Commissioners must decide how humane education will fit into pre-existing school curriculum such as literature, reading, language, nature study or ethnology.
- Such weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods.
- If schools do not provide humane education courses, they will not receive the funding allocated for such courses.

LIVE ANIMAL MARKET BAN

An act which prohibits the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowls are slaughtered or butchered for food. It aims to establish a task force which addresses public health risks posed and animal welfare concerns.

A.959 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.4311 Senator Sepulveda
Co-Sponsors: Dinowitz, Epstein, Hevesi, Jackson, Stern, Glick, Simone, Bores, Kelles, Davila	Co-Sponsors: Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Mayer
REFERRED TO: AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair	REFERRED TO: AGRICULTURE, Senator Hinchey, Chair



Animals are kept in close, dirty, inhumane living quarters where they are then slaughtered in sometimes unsterile ways.

BACKGROUND:

- Live markets are cruel because the animals are kept in cramped, overcrowded and dirty living quarters and are not fed or given water. The species sold in these markets can include fowl (chickens, ducks, guinea fowl, turkey and quail), and mammals (rabbits, goat, sheep and cows).
- Live markets present a health risk to the surrounding residential and retail communities because of unsanitary conditions, disposal issues and the poor air quality they generate which contribute to asthma and respiratory diseases.
- As we have seen with SARS, H5N1 and Covid-19, live markets have been tied to the spread of zoonotic diseases. This bill would eliminate one major source of such outbreaks.
- In November 2022 avian influenza was found in a live market in Queens, resulting in the killing of 170 birds. In 2023 avian flu was also found in two live markets in Brooklyn.
- Bill S6252/A8009 was passed in 2020 to extend a moratorium on new live markets within 1,500 feet of residential buildings in NYC. It will expire August 2024.
- The New York City Council's Committee on Health introduced Live Markets: Resolution 12-2022 that called on the New York State Legislature and the Governor to sign this bill.
- Bill A.959/S.4311 would restrict all live markets in the state to safeguard public health against deadly outbreaks and other diseases; improve the quality of life for those living and working near these markets; and put an end to the suffering the animals in these markets endure.

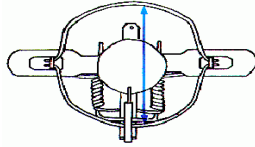
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Under this law, no new licenses for live markets will be issued and those licenses which are pre-existing will be suspended.
- Such task force shall consist of seven members, to be appointed as follows: one member to be appointed by the governor; two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member to be appointed by the commissioner or his or her designee; and one member to be appointed by the commissioner of health or his or her designee.
- Appointees shall have expertise in infectious diseases, and, in particular, the potential spread of diseases between animals raised or slaughtered for food and humans. At least one such representative shall be from a duly incorporated animal welfare organization, and at least one such representative shall be a licensed veterinarian who is not employed by a government agency.
- No member, officer or employee of such task force shall be disqualified from holding any other public office or employment, nor shall he or she forfeit any such office or employment by reason of his or her appointment pursuant to this section.
- The members of such task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this section.
- Such task force shall make a report of its findings to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly within one year of the date of the first meeting of the task force, which shall take place within thirty days of the appointment of the task force representatives.
- Such report shall include recommendations for further action and legislation.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any facilities other than live poultry or small animal slaughterhouses pursuant to this article which are open to the public.
- This act shall take effect immediately.

PROHIBITS LEG-GRIPPING TRAPS

An act to prohibit the use of wildlife leg-gripping traps.

A.110 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.1619 Senator Addabbo Jr.
Co-Sponsors: Dinowitz, Gonzalez-Rojas, Epstein, Kelles, Davila	Co-Sponsors: Brisport
Multi-Sponsors: Levenberg	
REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair	REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Harckham, Chair



RACKUS, THE POSTER-BOY FOR WHY LEGHOLD TRAPPING MUST STOP!

Rackus used to visit Marilyn M. for his occasional treat of fruit. One day, he arrived without his right hand that he used to pick up his piece of cantaloupe or honeydew, which he relished.

Several months later, he arrived without his left hand. Fortunately, Marilyn was able to get this photo as, sadly, it was the last time Rackus visited.

Raccoons' hands are to them what our eyes are to us. You'll learn many facts about raccoons' dependence on their hands at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2KaLgR5nQM>



BACKGROUND:

- From: *JAWS OF STEEL* by Thomas Eveland, a former trapper whose trap killed Haskel: *He, nor any other forest creature, could not have suspected what happened next. The leg-hold trap snapped shut on his right front leg at about mid-calf. The young raccoon threw his furry frame backwards out of pure instinct and squealed from both pain and shock. But it was too late. His fate was sealed. Haskle flailed wildly for countless minutes, stretching the chain to its four-foot length, then biting at the steel jaws that held him. At one point he bit down so hard on the steel that three of his teeth broke, one of them a large front canine. The right front leg was not really injured from the trap, but it did pinch sharply. Piercing waves of pain, though, shot through his jaw from his broken teeth. Thirty minutes or so after the initial strike, Haskle sat exhausted. He had torn chunks of bark from the exposed tree roots, thrown most of the leaves from the capture area and tried dozens of times to break the chain. His squeals, grunts and snarls had faded into the blackness around him. The steel jaws had cut deeply into his calf muscle from his thrashing and his large Achilles tendon was now severed. He sat quietly now, panting and confused. An hour after it all began, Haskle's jaw was still stinging smartly, but the pain in his leg was gone. With the circulation cut off; his lower leg below the trap had become numb. He was tired and thirsty, but he could not reach the water's edge. When he stretched the chain to its maximum he was only inches short of the brook.* (<https://www.amazon.com/Jaws-Steel-Thomas-Eveland/dp/0963076604>)
- Wildlife trapping is an activity licensed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The state license allows individuals to trap furbearing animals, such as beavers, raccoons, foxes and coyotes to produce fur products. Despite the availability of more humane alternatives, such as box or cage traps, many trappers still use steel leg-gripping traps, also known as foothold traps. These traps are triggered by springs once an animal steps onto the trap, quickly clamping onto their limb and holding them in place until they are discovered by the trapper. In some regions of New York State, it may be up to 48 hours before a trapper checks on a trap.
- Animals caught in leg-gripping traps are immobilized, and therefore are unable to move, eat or drink, care for their young or defend themselves from predators. In some cases, animals have even been discovered chewing off their trapped limb in order to escape. The American Veterinary Medical Association is opposed to their use. Species other than the target species are frequently trapped, including domestic animals.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- No person shall (a) set or use a trap of the leg-gripping type; (b) set a trap so that wildlife when caught is suspended; (c) use, locate or set a snare or a device consisting of a noose of any material whereby an animal may be taken.

WILDLIFE PASSAGE

An act to enact the "New York wildlife crossing act"; to direct the department of transportation to identify sites along all highways, thruways, and parkways in the state where wildlife crossings are most needed to increase public safety and improve habitat connectivity.

<p><u>A.4243B</u> Assembly Member Carroll</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: Simone, Rosenthal L, Ardila, Shimsky, Kelles, Simon, Colton, Steck, Seawright, Levenberg, Jacobson, Gunther, Otis, Reyes, Epstein, Thiele, Glick, Durso, Gandolfo, Novakhov, McGowan, Stern, Raga, Rajkumar, Hevesi, Anderson, Kim, Barrett, Dinowitz, McMahon, Forrest, Bichotte Hermelyn, Cunningham, Paulin, Slater, Taylor, Burgos, Shrestha, Lavine, Sayegh, Eachus, Mamdani, De Los Santos, Conrad, Sillitti, Weprin, Benedetto, Pretlow, Zaccaro, Jackson, Tapia, Fahy, Jones, McDonald, Meeks, Stirpe, Bores, Lee, Bronson, Wallace, Buttenschon, Pheffer Amato, Dilan, Davila, Burke, Fall, Aubry, Lunsford, Joyner, Ramos, Hunter, Santabarbara, Bendett, Darling, Clark, Burdick, Lucas, Jensen, Alvarez</p>	<p><u>S.4198B</u> Senator Comrie</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: Addabbo Jr., Ashby, Chu, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, May, Palumbo, Sepulveda, Tedisco, Webb</p>
<p>REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair</p>	<p>REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Harckham, Chair</p>



BACKGROUND:

- “According to some estimates, automobile collisions kill more than a million animals every day, making them the leading cause of death for many vertebrate species. Still worse is the way major roads and other forms of development can subdivide animal populations and fragment their habitats. Losing access to large areas of their living space makes it much harder for many woodland creatures to forage for food, find mates and carry on their genetic legacies” (National Geographic).
- “In recent years, several installations of animal crossings have occurred in the western United States. Since 2000, Arizona has constructed at least 20 corridors, including 17 underpasses, each augmented by funnel fencing. Their presence has brought about a 90 percent drop in wildlife-related highway accidents in one stretch of central Arizona known for migrating elk populations” (National Geographic).
- The relationship between roads and habitat fragmentation is well documented. One study found that roads contribute more to fragmentation in forest habitats than clear cuts.
- Wildlife-vehicle collisions have a significant cost for human populations because collisions damage property and injure and kill passengers and drivers. In the United States they result in 29,000 injuries and more than 200 fatalities per year.
- Of the currently available options, structures known as wildlife crossings have been the most successful at reducing both habitat fragmentation and wildlife-vehicle collisions caused by roads. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_crossing)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- This bill intends to direct some portion of the FY23 federal funding allocated for wildlife crossings to the state of New York for actionable development of wildlife crossing infrastructure. Several states have already emplaced wildlife crossings on vehicular highways, thruways, and parkways. Absent such structures in New York State, this bill upon passage will ensure such projects can initiate design and implementation where necessary. Data shows design and construction of such structures reduces wildlife collisions by greater than ninety percent.

BIG FIVE AFRICAN TROPHIES ACT

An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the "Big Five African Trophies Act" relating to foreign game.

A. 0584 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S. 3302 Senator Sepulveda
Co-Sponsors: Simon, Burke, Gonzalez-Rojas, Levenberg, Stern, Kelles, Davila	Co-Sponsors: Comrie, Harckham, Martinez, May
REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair	REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Harckham, Chair



BACKGROUND:

- The continued importation, possession, sale and/or transportation of the so-called "Big Five African Species" - lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes, black rhinos and white rhinos-is detrimental to the survival of these species.
- All of the Big Five African Species are threatened with extinction if the current rate of illegal poaching continues. Additionally, some African countries are considering (or have already) legalizing sport hunting and exportation of Big Five African Species. Such countries have based the legalization on the faulty logic that legalizing hunting of Big Five African Species will decrease the illegal poaching and trade of these animals. Such logic is not only erroneous, but also detrimental to the survival of the Big Five African Species.
- There is growing scientific evidence that legal trade of trophy-hunted species preserves and reinforces the illegal sourcing of the same. For example, South Africa, home to the second largest black rhino population in the world, received permission by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to sell permits for trophy-hunted rhinos in 2004. Many of these hunts are purchased by Americans, and the trophies are imported into or through the state of New York. The country has since seen a marked rise in illegal rhino poaching, with the World Wildlife Fund reporting that rhino poaching has increased 5,000% since 2007.
- **According to the Endangered Species Act, "Any State law or regulation respecting the taking of an endangered species or threatened species may be more restrictive than the exemptions or permits provided for in this Act or in any regulation which implements this Act but not less restrictive than the prohibitions so defined."** Accordingly, by banning the importation, possession, sale and transportation of all Big Five African Species within New York, the State will not be encouraging or abetting the continued demise of these species by sport-hunting. Only a complete ban can stem the tide of illegal trafficking caused by the legalization of hunting and capture of the Big Five African Species in some African countries.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership shall import, export, transport, process, sell, offer for sale, purchase, trade, barter, distribute or possess any part or product of the skin or body, whether raw or manufactured, of the following animal species: African Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*); African Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*); African Lion (*Panthera Leo*); Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros Bicornis*); White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium Simum*); and African Giraffe (*Giraffa Camelopardalis*).

TETHERING ACT

An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the tethering of dogs.

A.54A Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.6315A Senator Brisport
Co-Sponsors: Thiele, Jackson, Stern, Simone, Glick, Kelles, Davila	
REFERRED TO: AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair	REFERRED TO: AGRICULTURE, Senator Hinchey, Chair



BACKGROUND:

- Tethering is a high-risk factor in dog bites and attacks.
- Victims of such attacks are often children who approach the dog unaware of the risks.
- Tethered dogs' collars frequently become embedded in their skin causing infection and severe pain. They are at high risk of entanglement, strangulation and attacks by other dogs or people.
- Tethered dogs are often left without sufficient food and water when bowls are overturned, out of reach, or their water is frozen.
- Owners who chain their dogs are less likely to clean the area of confinement and less likely to provide adequate veterinary care.
- Tethered dogs often have no access to shelter from extreme heat and cold, snow, rain, and storms. Inadequate shelter is not waterproof -- providing little heat and protection, but law enforcement can unfortunately allow the owner to keep their pet in these conditions.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL (LOHV NY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED):

- No dog shall be tethered outdoors between the hours of 10 P.M. and 6 A.M.
- A dog shall not be tethered outside for longer than four (4) consecutive hours or a total time outside in excess of six (6) hours in a 24-hour period.
- The dog must not be tethered outdoors when a weather advisory or warning is issued by local, state or federal authorities or when outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not limited to heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or hail, pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of such dog based on such dog's breed, age or physical condition.
- Tethered dogs must have unencumbered access to shade, food, water, shelter, and dry ground without becoming entangled.
- No unattended tethering should be a requirement of this bill because it is much easier to enforce than timed tethering. Someone must be present with the dog at all times.
- Adequate shelter shall consist of a completely enclosed structure with four sides with a door opening, a constructed floor, and a roof. It should also be clean, dry and compatible with current weather conditions, in addition to age, size, species and condition of the animal. The structure should be of sufficient size to allow the animal to stand, turn around, lie down and go in and out of the structure comfortably. To be adequate, some type of bedding that is quick drying, such as hay or pine straw, must be provided to maintain comfortable temperatures within the structure during times when the outside temperature is below 65 degrees. In addition, the structure shall include a heavy plastic or rubber flap to cover the door and/or window openings during the months of November through March. From April through October, the structure shall either be shaded or moved out of direct sunlight. If the shelter is made of wood, it shall be raised at least two inches off the ground to prevent seepage or rotting. Examples of inadequate shelter include, but are not limited to, lean-tos, metal or plastic drums, boxes, abandoned vehicles, porches, decks, or material that does not provide sufficient protection from the elements.
- Dogs cannot be tethered in temperatures under 40F degrees or over 85F degrees.
- No dog shall be tethered outdoors between the hours of 7 P.M. and 6 A.M.

NOTES:

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS



2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS

League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) - Mission

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