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SENATE BILL 429

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Brenda G. McKenna

AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY; PROHIBITING DOG TETHERING;  
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR DOG TETHERING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] PROHIBITION OF DOG TETHERING--  
EXCEPTIONS--PENALTY.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "reasonable period" means a period of time  
not to exceed three hours a day, or a time that is otherwise  
approved by animal control; and

(2) "tether" means that a person ties a dog  
with a rope, line or chain to a stationary object.

B. No person shall tether or restrain a dog, or  
cause a dog to be tethered or restrained, for longer than is  
necessary for the person to complete a temporary task that

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1 requires the dog to be tethered or restrained for a reasonable  
2 period; provided that this subsection shall not apply to:

3 (1) accepted veterinary practices;

4 (2) activities carried out for scientific  
5 research governed by standards of accepted educational or  
6 medicinal practices;

7 (3) conduct that is directly related to the  
8 business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock; or

9 (4) conduct that is directly related to the  
10 business of cultivating agricultural products, if the tether or  
11 restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

12 C. A person who tethers a dog is guilty of a  
13 misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions  
14 of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978.