STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
RESOLUTION FOR
"NATIONAL PREVENT A LITTER MONTH"

OCTOBER 9, 1987

MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE
A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1988,
AS "NATIONAL PREVENT A LITTER MONTH."
THIS RESOLUTION ADDRESSES THE NATIONWIDE CRISIS OF PET OVERPOPULATION, PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND FOCUSES ON THE PRIMARY SOLUTION TO THIS TRAGEDY -- THE NEED FOR PET OWNERS TO HAVE THEIR DOGS AND CATS SPAYED AND NEUTERED.
REPRESENTATIVE FOLEY IS INTRODUCING COMPANION LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE TO PROMOTE THIS SAME DESERVING CAUSE.

PET OWNERS IN THE UNITED STATES ALLOW APPROXIMATELY 70,000 PUPPIES AND KITTENS TO BE BORN EACH DAY.
ADD THE NUMBER OF PUPPIES AND KITTENS BORN TO STRAY OR HOMELESS ANIMALS, AND YOU HAVE AS MANY AS 250,000 NEWBORN ANIMALS EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THERE ARE CLEARLY NOT ENOUGH GOOD HOMES FOR THESE ANIMALS. FOR THIS REASON, MANY ANIMALS MUST BE DESTROYED IN SHELTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
AND, THESE MAY BE CONSIDERED LUCKY, SINCE THEY ARE SPARED THE SUFFERING OF MALNUTRITION, DISEASE, OR INJURY GUARANTEED TO AN ABANDONED OR STRAY ANIMAL STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE ON ITS OWN.
I am particularly sensitive to this problem because the Dole family includes our wonderful dog, Leader, a homeless pet we adopted from an animal shelter. I am therefore very supportive of a major public awareness campaign being sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States.
THE CAMPAIGN, "BE A PAL -- PREVENT A LITTER," WILL EDUCATE THE PUBLIC TO THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP. IT WILL FOCUS ON THE SOLUTIONS TO THE TRAGIC PET OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM AND IS DESIGNED TO MAKE PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T NEUTERED THEIR ANIMALS MORE AWARE OF THEIR NEED TO ACT.
TO BRING EVEN GREATER ATTENTION TO THIS CRISIS,

THE HUMANE SOCIETY HAS CHOSEN THE MONTH OF

APRIL AS "PREVENT A LITTER MONTH."

THIS PROBLEM PERVADES EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE

UNITED STATES.
ACROSS THE COUNTRY ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS, SHELTERS, AND COMMUNITIES ARE SUCCESSFULLY WORKING TO REDUCE PET OVERPOPULATION THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SPAY/NEUTER CLINICS AND LOCAL ORDINANCES WHICH ENCOURAGE SPAYING AND NEUTERING. BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.
THE SENATE CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THIS
WORTHWHILE EDUCATIONAL EFFORT BY DECLARING
APRIL AS "NATIONAL PREVENT A LITTER MONTH."

MR. PRESIDENT, I ASK THAT THE RESOLUTION AND
MY STATEMENT BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD.