

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF "RESPONSIBLE PET  
CARE WEEK "

MR. DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY I AM INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1979 AS RESPONSIBLE PET CARE WEEK.

TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, PETS SERVE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THEIR LIVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. TO MANY OTHER AMERICANS, PETS PROVIDE SPORT AND YET FOR OTHERS THEY PROVIDE SECURITY AND PROTECTION.

ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT REALIZE IT, PETS ARE AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FACT IN OUR LIVES. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF STATE INCOME ARE DERIVED FROM PARI-MUTUAL BETTING ON DOG RACES. DOGS ARE EMPLOYED IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES. WITHOUT THEM, A LOT OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY, THE INFIRMED AND THE BLIND WOULD FEEL MORE THREATENED, MORE ALONE, AND MORE ISOLATED. SIMPLY, PETS CAN PROVIDE THAT NECESSARY COMPANIONSHIP FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.

MOST OF US KNOW THE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CANINE CORPS. THESE SPECIALLY TRAINED DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS, AND ARE TODAY A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE CONTINUING WAR ON ILLEGAL DRUGS. BUILDING ON THIS STRONG RECORD IN POLICE WORK, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ITS OWN CANINE CORPS CONSISTING OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DOGS. OFFICIALS IN THE MARYLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT HAVE ESTIMATED THAT ONE MAN AND A DOG CAN EQUAL THE SERVICES OF THREE POLICE OFFICERS. THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS ARE OBVIOUS AND COULD POSSIBLY RUN INTO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR. ALSO IN THE ENFORCMENT EFFORT IS THE USE OF HORSE PATROL OF MANY PARKS AND PUBLIC AREAS IN CITIES ALL ACROSS THIS NATION.

IN THE WASHINGTON D.C. AREA OVER 45 HORSES ARE USED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THAT DURING THE 1976 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN WASHINGTON, THE MOUNTED POLICEMAN DID THE JOB OF TWENTY POLICE OFFICERS.



ALTHOUGH THE ANIMALS I HAVE MENTIONED MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE TREATED AS A PLAYTHING LIKE MANY OTHERS IN FAMILY SURROUNDINGS, THESE ANIMALS DO SERVE AS COMPANIONSHIP NOT ONLY IN THEIR WORK, BUT ALSO AFTER THAT WORK IS COMPLETED DURING THE DAY.

THE BLIND DEPENDS ON THE SEEING EYE DOG FOR A VISION THAT MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED AND THE SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY THAT MAY FEAR ATTEMPTS OF CRIME AND AT THE SAME TIME DISSIPATE LONELINESS.

WHETHER IT BE FOR SPORT, SUCH AS HUNTING DOGS, OR COMPANIONSHIP, THE PET TODAY DESERVES RESPONSIBLE CARE. ACROSS THIS NATION, HUNDREDS OF HUMANE SHELTERS EXIST, FUNDED SOLELY BY CONTRIBUTIONS, TO PROVIDE THESE ANIMALS SHELTER AND A POSSIBLE HOME. PET CARE AND TRAINING SESSIONS ARE HELD IN SCHOOLS AND CLUBS SO THAT GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRECT CARE OF PETS CAN BE LEARNED.

ALL PETS DESERVE RESPONSIBLE CARE. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE THIS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR COMMUNITY HUMANE SHELTERS, PET CENTERS, PET BREEDERS, AND SUCH ASSOCIATIONS AS THE NATIONAL PET <sup>Fest</sup>~~CARE~~ INSTITUTE IN HELPING TO EDUCATE ALL AMERICANS IN THE CARE OF THEIR PETS.