

NO. R-53. JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CANINE GOOD CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM.

(J.R.H.4)

Offered by: Representatives Johnson of South Hero, Devereux of Mount Holly, Frank of Underhill, Hube of Londonderry and Trombley of Grand Isle

Whereas, dogs play an important role in the lives of many Vermont citizens by serving as companions, therapy dogs, and assistance dogs, and

Whereas, it is recognized that dog-related problems are most often caused by irresponsible owners, and

Whereas, responsible dog ownership is encouraged in Vermont, and responsible owners should properly control and provide adequate training for their dogs, and

Whereas, “Canine Good Citizen” programs identify and officially recognize those dogs who behave as members in good standing with the community, and

Whereas, the Canine Good Citizen Program, which was developed by the American Kennel Club, teaches pet owners that dogs should exhibit “good citizen” behaviors in the presence of people and other animals, in both the home and the community, and

Whereas, children and adults of all ages participate in Canine Good Citizen classes to learn the skills involved in responsible dog ownership, and

Whereas, with dog bites and animal concerns on the rise, there is a real need for dogs to remain well-behaved community members, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly encourages dog training programs and kennel clubs to provide training and education for community pet owners that result in dogs being “Canine Good Citizens,” and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Deborah Brown, President of the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs, in North Hero