

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 550

Endorsing "Canine Good Citizen" programs.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 1995
Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 1995

WHEREAS, dogs play an important role in the lives of many Virginians by serving as companions and assistance animals; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that a "bad dog" problem is most often an irresponsible-owner problem; and

WHEREAS, responsible pet ownership is encouraged in the Commonwealth, and responsible owners should properly confine and provide adequate training for their dogs; and

WHEREAS, "Canine Good Citizen" programs identify and officially recognize those with dogs that behave as members in good standing in the community; and

WHEREAS, the "Canine Good Citizen" concept was developed to teach pet owners that dogs should exhibit functional, "good citizen" behavior in the presence of other people and animals, both in the home and in the community; and

WHEREAS, because many Virginians are the victims of animal bites each year, there is a pressing need for dogs to be well-behaved community members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That "Canine Good Citizen" programs be endorsed as a means of teaching owners responsible pet ownership and as a means of teaching dogs good citizen behavior for the community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That dog-training programs and kennel clubs be encouraged to provide training and education for community pet owners that emphasize the importance of properly confining and controlling dogs and providing training that results in "canine good citizens."

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