



## DISCUSSION

ITEM NO. 20

**DATE OF MEETING:** August 10, 2015

**REQUESTED BY:** Commissioner Fred McCoy

**SHORT TITLE:** Discussion of Animals Being Tied Up Outside and Animal Cruelty Issues in Pender County.

**BACKGROUND:** Commissioner McCoy as well as other Commissioners and the County Manager's office have been contacted regarding the issue of Animal Cruelty in Pender County. Mr. McCoy has requested this discussion item be added to the agenda. A copy of the letter to County Manager Randell Woodruff is attached.

Jul 15, 2015

County Manager Randell Woodruff  
805 South Walker Street  
Burgaw, NC 28425-5001

Dear County Manager Woodruff,

I was shocked to hear about a chained dog in Rockingham who was found starved to death after being denied access to food and water and left unattended in the sweltering summer sun. Our state must take immediate steps to outlaw the unattended chaining of dogs in order to prevent more of them from suffering and dying as several have this summer. In addition to the cruelty associated with unattended chaining, it also poses a very real threat to public safety. According to a study partly conducted by two physicians with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chained dogs are almost three times as likely to attack as dogs who are not chained. Recently, an elderly Fayetteville woman was seriously injured after being mauled by a dog who was chained to her neighbor's porch.

More than 200 jurisdictions across the country as well as several states have banned or significantly restricted dog tethering. It's time for North Carolina to join them. As the area experiences record-high temperatures and heat advisories are issued across the state, I respectfully urge you to ban the cruel practice of continuous and unattended chaining in North Carolina. Please consider this an emergency. My vote depends on your swift action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elaine Brown  
1544 Hoover Rd  
Hampstead, NC 28443-3332