

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 548**

Introduced by Howard, 9; Wishart, 27.

Read first time January 22, 2019

Committee: Judiciary

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to offenses against animals; to prohibit  
2       restraining animals in the event of certain natural or manmade  
3       disasters or severe weather events as prescribed; and to provide a  
4       penalty.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1.   (1) No animal shall be restrained with a chain, rope,  
2 cord, tether, cable, or similar device and left unsheltered or unattended  
3 in the event of a severe weather event or natural or manmade disaster  
4 including, but not limited to, during a tornado warning issued for the  
5 jurisdiction by the National Weather Service or after a mandatory or  
6 voluntary evacuation order has been issued for the jurisdiction by a  
7 governmental authority.

8           (2) For purposes of this section:

9           (a) Animal means an animal kept as a household pet for the purpose  
10 of companionship, including, but not limited to, a dog, cat, bird,  
11 rabbit, rodent, and reptile; and

12           (b) Severe weather event means the existence of severe climatic  
13 conditions creating rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds, extremely high  
14 or low temperatures, or any combination thereof that would endanger the  
15 safety of an animal restrained as described in subsection (1) of this  
16 section.

17           (3) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class I  
18 misdemeanor.