



The Issue: Tethering Dogs:

Tethering a dog refers to the restraint and confinement by the use of a chain, rope or any other similar device. This practice of chaining or fastening dogs to a stationary object or stake usually occurs in a person's backyard as a way of keeping a dog out of the house if he or she has gotten too large, sheds too much, barks, isn't house-trained, or is destructive when left alone. In some communities, tethering is an old habit and still too-common practice, especially with hunting and sled dogs. Tethering does not refer to the periods when a dog is walked on a leash.

Tethering a dog can be inhumane and can also threaten the safety of the dog and the public. Furthermore, though some people tether dogs for protection – or because they like the 'guard dog' image – the dogs would provide more protection inside the house with the family. Dogs are social animals who thrive on social interaction; in fact, they need socialization for proper development and will get progressively worse over time without interaction. If they are chained in one area for hours, days, months or even years at a time they can suffer serious psychological damage from their isolation, frustration, and boredom. Their personalities soon change; dogs who were once friendly and calm grow unhappy, anxious, and often extremely aggressive.

Dogs who are tethered for long periods of time not only suffer psychological damage, but physical damage as well. Their necks can become raw and covered with sores from the collars that attach to heavy chains; the continual pull from the chains on their necks can even cause collars to become embedded. Reports have also shown that a dog's tether can become entangled and choke the dog to death. Numerous dogs have been

found hung from fences and decks. Tethered dogs often lack proper shelter and are forced to suffer through outside elements such as harsh weather, biting insects, possible harassment from humans and attacks from other animals. They often live in dirt and mud because their constant pacing usually beats down the grass around them. They rarely see veterinarians and often suffer from parasites and inadequate nutrition.

Numerous studies have shown that tethered dogs are at higher risk of biting than dogs who are not tethered. Tying dogs in place is inherently unsafe for the dogs (who are unwittingly exposed to people who could tease or harm them), and tethered dogs can be a bite risk for anyone who may come in contact with them. [The Centers for Disease Control reports that tethered dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite;](#) from 1965 to 2001, chained dogs killed at least 109 people, 99 of them were children. Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) compiled a report entitled "[Public Safety and Humane Implications of Persistently Tethering Domestic Dogs](#)", which states that between October 2003 and September 2007, at least 175 children across the United States were killed or seriously injured by chained dogs.

These are compelling statistics, especially to people who might not be sufficiently moved by the cruelty and neglect associated with extended chaining. Their image of a tethered dog might not be the skinny, pitiful looking dog abandoned in a yard, but rather an aggressive, frightening guard dog who makes them feel unsafe in their neighborhoods. Their fear of those dogs probably trumps their concern for the animals; both arguments are important when trying to pass local ordinances that ban or restrict tethering of dogs.

Local provisions/examples from other cities, etc.:

According to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), more than 125 communities in over 30 states have some restrictions on tethering/chaining.

Communities that prohibit chaining include:

Maumelle, Arkansas	New Orleans, LA	Lawton, Oklahoma
Tucson, Arizona	Carthage, Missouri	Big Spring, Texas
Okaloosa, Florida	New Hanover, NC	Electra, Texas
Chatham City, Georgia	Roanoke Rapids, NC	

Communities that limit chaining by time include:

		Austin, Texas
Los Angeles, California	Topeka, Kansas	Wildwood, New Jersey
Kern County, California	Wichita, Kansas	Wildwood Crest, NJ
San Bernardino, California	Jefferson County, Kentucky	Canandaigua, NY
Denver, Colorado	Louisville, Kentucky	Albuquerque, NM
Dania, Florida	Baker, Louisiana	Chapel Hill, NC
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Amherst, Massachusetts	Laurinburg, North Carolina
Hollywood, Florida	Easthampton, MA	Orange County, NC (amended)
Oakland Park, Florida	East Longmeadow, MA	Scotland County, NC
West Palm Beach, Florida	Greenfield, MA	North Royalton, Ohio
Orange County, Florida	Provincetown, MA	Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Pembroke Park, Florida	Milton, MA	Multnomah City, Oregon
DeKalb City, Georgia	Battle Creek, Michigan	Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Bloomington, Indiana	St. Paul, Minnesota	Northampton City, VA
Marion, Indiana	Creve Coeur, Missouri	Norfolk, Virginia
Dodge City, Kansas	Camden, New Jersey	Smithfield, Virginia
Lawrence, Kansas	Lower Township, NJ	Virginia Beach, Virginia
Leavenworth, Kansas	Ocean City, NJ	Linn, Wisconsin
Overland Park, Kansas	Sea Isle City, NJ	Racine, Wisconsin

State Laws:

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), 20 states place some restrictions on chaining in [state statutes](#); the AVMA website has a summary of the laws.

In 2006, California passed legislation that would prohibit dog owners from tethering their pets to any stationary object for more than three hours. Tethering a dog will result in an infraction or misdemeanor, depending on the offense, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per dog and or up to six months in a county jail.

In 2010, Connecticut updated their previously vague statute to define unreasonable confinement and tethering. Violations are punishable by a fine of \$ 100 for the first offense, \$ 200 for a second, and between \$ 250 and \$ 500 for any subsequent offense. Animal control officers can seize the dog and courts can order forfeiture, upon a third or subsequent offense. Each day of unreasonable confinement or tethering is a separate offense.

Suggestions for anti-tethering ordinance language:

- Specify that tethers must be designed for dogs (do not allow logging chains, etc.)
- Specify acceptable type, length, weight of tether; require swivels to prevent tangling
- Specify minimum space (per dog) for enclosures
- Consider banning tethering during specific times of the day or night (easier to enforce than maximum hours per day and can also address temperature extremes)
- Define “cruel/inhumane chaining/tethering”
- Consider allowing trolley systems for limited amounts of time instead of fixed tethers (if financial considerations prevent fencing/enclosures), but ensure that trolley systems have swivels and do not allow more than one dog per system
- Include (and enforce) significant, graduated penalties to serve as deterrents – especially in cases where education has not resulted in positive changes for the affected dog(s)
- Check with your city/town clerk to see if the fines in your proposed ordinance are consistent with, and allowed by, state law (Massachusetts limits monetary fines imposed by local ordinances and bylaws).

Language used in ordinances in select Massachusetts cities:

Amherst, Massachusetts – November 2010

In order to enhance the quality of life of citizens and dogs in the Town of Amherst, and to protect the general public from damage and nuisance that may be caused by dogs confined outdoors, this bylaw prohibits the continuous outside confinement or tethering of dogs between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and prohibits the confinement or tethering of dogs outside for more than eight (8) total hours in any 24-hour period except when certain conditions are met.

Prolonged Confinement of Dogs Outside

(A) Prolonged Chaining or Tethering of Dogs is Prohibited.

No person owning or keeping a dog in the town shall chain or tether a dog to a stationary object including but not limited to any structure, dog house, pole or tree for longer than eight (8) total hours in any 24-hour period. Any tethering employed shall not allow the dog to leave the owner/guardian's or keeper's property. The tether must be designed for dogs (e.g., logging chains and other lines or devices not for the purpose of tethering dogs may not be used). No chain or tether shall weigh more than one-eighth (1/8) of the dog's body weight. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a person from walking a dog on a hand-held leash.

No dog under the age of six (6) months shall be tethered outside for any length of time.

(B) Permissible Outside Confinement.

A person owning or keeping a dog in the town may confine such dog outside for up to eight (8) total hours in a 24-hour period through the use of any of the following three methods:

- (1) Inside a pen or secure enclosure, if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The pen or secure enclosure has adequate space for exercise with a dimension of at least one hundred (100) square feet. Commercial dog kennels with pens intended for the temporary boarding of dogs are exempt from this requirement.
 - (b) The pen or secure enclosure is constructed with chain link or other similar material as determined by the Building Inspector, with all four (4) sides enclosed.
 - (c) The minimum height of the fence is adequate to successfully confine the dog.
- (2) A fully fenced, electronically fenced, or otherwise securely enclosed yard, wherein a dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave the enclosed yard.
- (3) A trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley on a cable run, if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) Only one dog may be tethered to each cable run.
 - (b) The tether must be attached to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the

dog, with enough room between the collar and the dog's throat through which two (2) adult fingers may fit. Choke collars and pinch collars are prohibited for the purposes of tethering a dog to a cable run.

(c) There must be a swivel on at least one end of the tether to minimize tangling of the tether.

(d) The tether and cable run must each be at least ten (10) feet in length. The cable must be mounted at least four (4) feet but not more than seven (7) feet above ground level.

(e) The length of the tether from the cable run to the dog's collar or harness must allow continuous access to clean water and appropriate shelter at all times as described in paragraph (C) of this bylaw. The trolley system or tether must be of appropriate configuration to confine the dog to the owner/guardian's or keeper's property, to prevent the trolley system or tether from extending over an object or an edge that could result in injury or strangulation of the dog, and to prevent the trolley system or tether from becoming tangled with other objects or animals.

(C) Access to Water and Shelter.

Any person owning or keeping a dog in the town confined outside in accordance with Paragraph (B) of this section must provide the dog with access to clean water and an appropriate dog shelter. The dog shelter must allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on at least three sides, roofed, and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the dog's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of weather elements. The shelter shall contain clean bedding and be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand, lie down, and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair. Suitable drainage must be provided so that water, ice, or waste is not standing in or around the shelter.

(D) No Outside Confinement at Night.

No person owning or keeping a dog in the town may leave a dog chained, tethered or confined outside between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

(E) Exceptions to Outdoor Confinement.

Exceptions to the above restrictions on outdoor confinement shall be made for dogs actively engaged in conduct directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or other livestock or conduct that is directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

(F) Cruel Conditions and Inhumane Chaining or Tethering are Prohibited.

No person owning or keeping a dog in the town may subject the dog to cruel conditions or inhumane chaining or tethering at any time. Cruel conditions and inhumane chaining or tethering are defined but not limited to the following conditions:

- (1) Filthy and dirty confinement conditions, including but not limited to exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, dirty water, noxious odors, dangerous objects that could injure or kill the dog upon contact, or other circumstances that could cause harm to the dog's physical or emotional health.
- (2) Taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening or otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog.
- (3) Subjecting the dog to dangerous conditions, including attack by other animals.

(G) Violations and Penalties

Any person owning or keeping a dog in the town who violates any provisions of this ordinance are subject to the following penalties and enforcement actions:

- (1) First violation. Violator will be subject to a warning only unless the town deems conditions warrant a penalty, in which case the violator will be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and must meet remediation requirements set forth by the town no later than ten (10) calendar days after the violation. Failure to satisfy the conditions of the first violation shall immediately subject the violator to a second violation.
- (2) Second violation. Violator will be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and must meet remediation requirements set forth by the town no later than ten (10) calendar days after the violation. Failure to satisfy the conditions of the second violation shall immediately subject the violator to a third violation.
- (3) Third violation. Violator will be subject to a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00), impoundment of the dog in the town's shelter at the owner/guardian's expense pending compliance with the by-law, and potential loss of ownership of the dog.

Easthampton, Massachusetts – May 2011

Section 11-18. Prolonged Chaining, Tethering, and Confinement of Dogs

A. **Prolonged Chaining or Tethering of Dogs.** No person owning or keeping a dog in the City shall chain or tether a dog for longer than 8 continuous hours during any twenty-four hour period. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a person from walking a dog on a hand-held leash. It shall be lawful for a responsible party to tether a dog while outdoors when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The dog must be wearing a suitable collar (no pinch collars) when connected to the tether.
2. The tether must be appropriate to the age and size of the dog and be long enough to allow the dog ample movement.

3. The dog is tethered in such a manner as to prevent injury, strangulation, or entanglement.
 4. The dog is not outside during a period of extreme weather. Arctic breeds and other dogs with a double-layered coat, bred to live in an arctic climate, may be out in suitable freezing temperatures.
 5. The dog is always within reach of drinking water and has access to dry ground.
 6. The dog is not sick or injured.
 7. If there are multiple dogs, each dog is tethered separately.
- B. **Permissible Outside Confinement.** A person owning or keeping a dog may confine such dog outside for up to 8 continuous hours in a twenty-four hour period when the pen, secure enclosure, or fully fenced-in yard (including a properly maintained electric dog fence) has adequate space for exercise. A pen or secure enclosure must be appropriate to the age and size of the dog and be constructed with chain link or other similar material as determined by the Animal Control Officer.
- C. **Access to Water and Shelter.** Any person owning or keeping a dog confined outside in accordance with Paragraph (A) or (B) of this section must provide the dog with access to water and appropriate shelter. Dog shelters must be structurally sound and allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on three sides, roofed, and have a solid floor. The shelter shall be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand and turn comfortably. Filthy and dirty confinement conditions, which could cause harm to the dog's physical or emotional health, are prohibited.
- D. **No Overnight Chaining, Tethering, and Confinement.** No person owning or keeping a dog in the City may leave a dog chained, tethered, or confined outside between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- E. **Exceptions to Outdoor Confinement.** Exceptions to the above restrictions on outdoor confinement may be made for sporting or working dogs.
- F. **Extreme/Hazardous Weather Conditions.** Law Enforcement Officials shall determine if weather conditions are hazardous to a particular dog or dogs chained, tethered or confined outside in accordance with Paragraphs (A) or (B) of this section. Upon such determination, the official shall order the responsible party to provide the dog with immediate access to an approved area.
- G. **Violations and Penalties.** A violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be punishable by a written warning for the first offense; offenders must correct the violation within ten (10) calendar days. Failure to satisfy the conditions of the first

violation shall immediately subject the violator to a second violation. The second violation shall be punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and must meet remediation requirements set forth by the City no later than ten (10) calendar days after the violation. If any owner or keeper of a dog in the City violates this section three (3) times the violator will be subject to a fine of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00), impoundment of the dog in the City's shelter at the owner/guardian's expense pending compliance with the by-law, and potential loss of ownership of the dog.

- H. **Temporary Impoundment.** Dogs impounded under the authority of this section shall be confined in a place suitable for the care and detention of animals. The owner of the dog will be notified in writing of the impoundment and will have a period of ten (10) calendar days within which to recover the dog. The owner of the dog shall be required to pay the expense of maintaining the dog in confinement, including, but not limited to cost of boarding, feeding, medical care, and medicines. Return of the dog to the licensed owner shall require payment of fines and expenses, and satisfactorily meeting the conditions outlined in this section, as verified with an inspection by the Animal Control Officer.
- I. **Permanent Removal and Appeals.** If the owner fails to perform all actions necessary for the return of the dog within ten (10) calendar days, the Animal Control Officer may find permanent placement for the dog in a new home, shelter, or rescue. If the Animal Control Officer recommends a permanent removal of the dog after said investigation, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall convene a hearing board and determine the permanent placement of the dog. Within ten (10) calendar days of the hearing board's decision, the owner may file an appeal to the mayor. The mayor will form a committee, which shall consider the appeal.
- J. **Enforcement.** Primary enforcement of this ordinance shall rest with the Animal Control Officer. The Easthampton Police Department shall also enforce provisions of section 11-18 as necessary.

Appendix A: At the time of licensing, the city clerk shall provide all dog owners with *Appendix A: Dog Tethering Recommendations*. (email advocacy@mspca.org for a copy)

East Longmeadow, Massachusetts - May 1, 2006

This ordinance prohibits the outside confinement of dogs between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. and allows the confinement of dogs outside for more than six total hours in any 24-hour period only when certain conditions are met.

9.025 Prolonged Confinement of Dogs Outside

(A) Prolonged Chaining or Tethering of Dogs is Prohibited.

No person owning or keeping a dog in the town shall chain or tether a dog to a stationary object including but not limited to any structure, dog house, pole or tree for longer than six total hours in any twenty-four hour period. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a person from walking a dog on a hand-held leash.

(B) Permissible Outside Confinement.

A person owning or keeping a dog in the town may confine such dog outside for longer than six total hours in a twenty-four hour period through the used of any of the following three methods:

(1) A pen or secure enclosure, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The pen or secure enclosure has adequate space for exercise with a dimension of at least one-hundred square feet. Commercial dog kennels with pens intended for the temporary boarding of dogs are exempt from this requirement.

(b) The pen or secure enclosure is constructed with chain link or other similar material as determined by the Building Inspector, with all four sides enclosed.

(2) A fully fenced or otherwise securely enclosed yard wherein a dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave the enclosed yard.

(3) A trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley on a cable run, if the following conditions are met:

(a) Only one dog may be tethered to each cable run.

(b) The tether must be attached to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the dog, with enough room between the collar and the dog's throat through which two adult fingers may fit. Choke collars and pinch collars are prohibited for the purposes of tethering a dog to a cable run.

(c) There must be a swivel on at least one end of the tether to minimize tangling of the tether.

(d) The tether and cable run must be at least ten feet in length and mounted at least four feet but not more than seven feet above ground level.

(e) The length of the tether from the cable run to the dog's collar or harness must allow continuous access to water and appropriate shelter as described in paragraph (C) of this by-law. The trolley system or tether must be of appropriate configuration to confine the dog to the owner's property, to prevent the trolley system or tether from extending over an object or an edge that could result in injury or strangulation of the dog; and to prevent the trolley system or tether from becoming tangled with other objects or animals.

(C) Access to Water and Shelter.

Any person owning or keeping a dog in the town confined outside in accordance with Paragraph (B) of this section must provide the dog with access to water and an

appropriate dog shelter. The dog shelter must allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on three sides, roofed, and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the dog's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of wind and rain. The shelter shall be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair. Suitable drainage must be provided so that water is not standing in or around the shelter.

(D) No Outside Confinement at Night.

No person owning or keeping a dog in the town may leave a dog chained, tethered or confined outside between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Greenfield, Massachusetts

4.7.9 Dogs at Large:

4.7.9.5 No person owning or keeping a dog shall permit such dog to be at large elsewhere than on the premises of the owner or keeper, except if it be on the premises of another person with the permission of such other person. Such owner or keeper of the dog, which is not on the premises of the owner, or upon the premises of another person with the permission of such other person shall restrain such dog with a chain or leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in length. No dog or puppy may be restrained by a fixed point chain or tether for more than eight (8) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period. Any tethering employed shall not allow the dog or puppy to leave the owners or keepers property. No chain or tether shall weigh more than one-eighth (1/8) of the dog or puppy's body weight. Any chain or tether used must be attached to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the animal.

Exceptions:

1. the dog is attached to a leash held by a person who is capable of controlling the dog or puppy,
2. the dog is in a vehicle from which it cannot escape while the vehicle is driven, parked, or stopped,
3. the dog is not more than fifty (50) feet from a person whose commands it abides to,
4. the dog is within hundred (100) feet or within calling or whistling distance, mechanical or otherwise, for the purposes of hunting in an area where hunting is allowed and dogs are legally allowed for hunting purposes,
5. the dog or puppy is not annoying any human or domestic animal or trespassing on private property,
6. the dog is in a public area where dogs or puppies are allowed.

These exceptions shall apply to public parks and recreational fields designated by the Town of Greenfield allowing dogs to be off leash.

Provincetown, Massachusetts – November 2010

13-2-7-8 Unlawful Tethering Of Dogs

(a) The following term shall have the following definition:

"Reasonable period" shall mean a period of time not to exceed a total of three hours in any 24-hour period, or a time that is otherwise approved by the animal control officer.

"Temporary task" shall mean a task that takes no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

"Tether" shall mean to fasten, chain, tie or otherwise restrain.

(b) No person shall tether, or cause a dog to be tethered, to a dog house, tree, fence, or any other stationary object.

(1) A dog shall not be tethered to any running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a choke collar or pinch collar or prong collar or any other device that is not properly fitted to the dog or that is likely to cause injury to the dog.

(2) A dog shall not be tethered if the length of the tether is shorter than ten feet or five times the length of the dog as measured from the tip of the dog's nose to the base of the dog's tail, whichever is greater.

(3) A dog shall not be tethered in any manner that is likely to cause injury, strangulation or entanglement to the dog.

(4) A dog shall not be tethered if the dog does not have access to water, shade and dry ground.

(5) A dog shall not be tethered if it is visibly sick or injured.

(6) A dog shall not be tethered in the case of extreme weather conditions, including conditions in which the actual or effective outdoor temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit; a heat advisory has been issued by a local or state authority jurisdiction; or a hurricane, tropical storm or tornado warning has been issued within the Town by the National Weather Service.

(7) A dog shall not be tethered if the owner or party responsible for the dog is not in visual range of the dog.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), an owner or person responsible for the dog may do any of the following:

(1) Tether a dog for a reasonable period. If there are multiple dogs, each dog is tethered separately.

(2) Tether a dog pursuant to the requirements of a camping or recreational area.

(3) Tether a dog no longer than is necessary for the owner or person responsible for the dog to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be restrained.

(d) Any person who violates this bylaw shall be subject to a fine of \$100 (one hundred dollars) for the first offense; \$200 (two hundred dollars) for the second offense; and \$300 (three hundred dollars) for the third and subsequent offenses. Each violation of this by-law shall be deemed to be a separate offense. Or to take any other action relative thereto. *[Requested by Provincetown Animal Welfare Committee]*

Milton, Massachusetts

CHAPTER 6 - POLICE REGULATIONS - Section 22.

A. No person shall own or keep a dog which by barking, biting, howling or in any other manner disturb the peace and quiet of any neighborhood or endangers the safety of any person. B. The owner, keeper, parent or guardian of a minor owner or keeper of a dog shall not allow said dog to be off the premises of its said owner or keeper except: 1. in the immediate restraint and control of some person by means of a leash or by effective command, or 2. on the premises of another with the permission of such other. C. Any violation shall be punished by a fine of \$ 30.00 for the first offence, \$40.00 for the second offense and \$ 50.00 for the third offense. In addition, any violation shall permit the dog officer to order the dog restrained or to impound the dog. Return of the dog to the owner or keeper shall not be made until after the payment to the Town of the sum of \$ 35.00 together with \$ 10.00 for each day the dog is held. Dogs impounded and unclaimed by the owner or keeper after ten (10) days shall, for a fee of \$ 15.00 paid by the purchaser, be put up for adoption by the Dog Officer. There will be a fee of \$ 25.00 payable by the owner for removal of dead animals from private property or emergency service for animals injured or after twenty (20) days shall be disposed of by the Dog Officer on the Monday or Tuesday after the expiration of the twenty (20) day period from the date of impounding. D. 1. No dog shall be tethered to a stationary object for more than one (1) hour at a time. 2. Dogs shall be tethered to a stationary object with a tether which is manufactured specifically for dogs or which is made of a material with sufficient strength for that purpose, including without limitation coated steel cable. No dog shall be tethered to a stationary object with a material which may cause death or injury to a dog or which could become entangled around the body or limbs of a dog or could otherwise cause discomfort to a dog, including without limitation rope, clothesline or chain. 3. No dog shall be tethered to a stationary object with a tether which is less than five (5) times the length of the dog, measured from the tip of the dog's nose to the tip of the dog's tail.²²

4. No dog shall be tethered to a stationary object by a tether which is attached to a training collar on the dog's neck which, if the tether became tangled, could tighten, causing death, injury or discomfort to the dog. 5. No dog shall be penned in a space which is not large enough for the dog to move around comfortably. Each such pen shall meet the then current requirements for space as recommended by the Humane Society of the United States. The minimum space requirements for such a pen shall be:

Total weight of dogs less than fifty (50) pounds	Total weight of dogs fifty (50) pounds or more
1 6 feet x 10 feet	8 feet x 10 feet (60 square feet)
2 8 feet x 10 feet	8 feet x 12 feet (80 square feet)
3 8 feet x 12 feet	10 feet x 14 feet (96 square feet)
4 8 feet x 14 feet	10 feet x 16 feet (140 square feet)

6. No dog shall be penned for more than four (4) hours at a time. 7. Any person who violates any provision of this Subsection D of Section 22 shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty- five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each offense. Each day of such violation shall constitute a separate offense. Proof that a dog which is the subject of such a violation has been spayed or neutered shall be a basis for reduction of a fine.

RESOURCES

MSPCA-Angell Advocacy Department
350 S. Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130
www.mspca.org
617-522-7400

Other animal protection organizations:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS): www.HumaneSociety.org
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA):
www.ASPCA.org
Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC): www.massanimalcoalition.org
Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM): www.apnm.org (tethering report)

Resources on tethering:

Dogs Deserve Better: www.DogsDeserveBetter.org
Unchain Your Dog: <http://www.unchainyourdog.org>
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Tethering State Law Report:
http://www.avma.org/advocacy/state/issues/sr_tethering_prohibitions.asp
Humane Society Tethering Kit: <http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/chainingkit>
http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/chaining_tethering/facts/chaining_tethering_facts.html
Animal Sheltering Magazine: www.animalsheltering.org (see article in Jan-Feb 2009 issue)

Government/public policy entities:

Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts:
<http://www.acoam.com/home/>
Massachusetts Municipal Association: www.mma.org
Massachusetts state website: www.mass.gov
Municipal Code Corporation: www.municode.com
National Canine Research Council: <http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/>
Animal Law Coalition: <http://www.animallawcoalition.com/>

Working with the Media: The Spin Project: www.spinproject.org

Help Stop the Tethering of Dogs!



The practice of tethering or chaining a dog is both inhumane and a threat to public safety!

Why you should stop chaining your dog or help those dogs who are:

- Dogs are social animals who desperately seek companionship; when they are confined to a chain they suffer from boredom, loneliness, and develop severe psychological and emotional problems.
- A dog who suffers from the psychological and emotional problems of tethering becomes unpredictable - posing a dangerous threat to humans and other animals. The Centers for Disease Control reports that tethered dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite than untethered dogs.
- When dogs are chained for a long period of time, their necks become raw and covered in sores from the weight of their collars and the continual tug against it while they try to break free. The continual pull of the neck can even cause collars to become embedded within the skin.
- A dog who is tethered has little or no protection from the elements of the outdoors, such as harsh weather, biting and stinging insects, possible harassment from humans and attacks by other animals.
- Tethered dogs are at risk of becoming choked or strangled to death if their chains or tethers become entangled with other objects
- A dog who is tethered is forced to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a single confined area - this behavior is unnatural and distressing for a dog.