



A new Pinellas County ordinance makes it illegal to tie or chain your dog or cat outside except for brief periods of time while the owner is with the pet and keeps the pet within sight.

How you can help!

- If you are a dog owner, please don't tether your dog.
- Consider the effects to the dog and to the people who live with you and around you in the neighborhood.
- If someone from Pinellas County comes to talk to you about it, listen.
- Once you understand the effects of tethering, spread the word.
- If you know someone who tethers their pet and leaves it unattended, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600. An animal control officer will go to the property to talk to the owner and share educational materials. If necessary, this visit will be followed up with a formal warning and a citation if appropriate. Fines can be up to \$500.



Pinellas County Animal Services
12450 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774
(727) 582-2600



www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices

BREAK THE CHAIN



Don't Tether Your Dog



Help end the tethering of dogs.

Learn more about the dangers involved. Encourage friends and neighbors to be aware of the dangers and cruelty of tethering their dogs.

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IT'S THE LAW



BREAK THE CHAIN



What's wrong with tethering?

- Tethering a dog is physically dangerous. The chains and ropes and other devices used to restrain dogs often get tangled and wrapped around trees or other objects, leaving the dog with precious little room and a grave potential of choking. Dogs who attempt to jump over a fence can be strangled, and those with choke collars and other tight-fitting collars can easily get seriously injured.
- Dogs left outside are targets. They are fair game for fleas and other insects, teasing from kids and even adults as well as attacks from other animals.
- Even a friendly dog that is left alone for long periods of time becomes unhappy, anxious and aggressive to humans and other animals. Many "dangerous dogs" were made that way by the treatment from their owners ... maybe without the owners even realizing it.

Like humans, dogs have basic needs.

- Dogs need food and water to live. Food and water bowls that may be left out for them when they are tethered often get knocked over. If empty bowls are not refreshed, the dog is left without food or water.
- Dogs need proper shelter from the heat of Florida's long summers and the cold of the winter months. Being tethered outside in extreme weather conditions like storms can terrify them and lead to physical dangers.
- Dogs need human contact. Dogs are naturally social, family-oriented animals. Anyone who knows a dog can see that they thrive on human companionship. A dog who is forced to stay alone in one area for hours, days or even weeks and months suffers as much as if they had no food or water.

How is the ordinance enforced?

- Through education, pet owners will find out about the tethering law and why it is in effect.
- If the pet owner continues to illegally tether their dog or cat, an animal control officer will issue a warning.
- After the warning, there will be citations issued for tethering violations.
- **Violators will receive citations and fines of up to \$500.**

Revisions to the Animal Service Ordinance

Chapter 14, Article II

Passed October 21, 2014

In order to comply with Ordinance No. 14-40, Sec. 14-31, here are some important points to remember:

- The owner or keeper of a dog or cat must remain outside with the animal while it is tethered.
- The owner or keeper of a dog or cat must keep the animal within sight.
- The tether must be of a size and weight necessary to safely restrain the dog or cat without placing excessive weight or strain on the dog or cat.
- If there are multiple animals, each one must be tethered separately so they do not get tangled.

