

DOG RELATED ORDINANCES:

These ordinances have been crafted to achieve the following goals:

- To allow residents to improve and make safer their tethering practices for their dogs while also restricting that use in cases of extreme weather. During those periods law enforcement and other agencies are deluged with animal cruelty complaints and this restriction will not only reduce those calls over time, but also give parameters for law enforcement and other agencies for code enforcement.
- To end the practice of tying up dogs outside of stores and other public places where animals are not permitted to enter. This practice regularly leads to bites on well-meaning adults and children who attempt to approach the animal, dog fights and the death of animals post-fighting. Animals have also been reported stolen or let loose from the leash.
- To create more humane tethering practices, by not being able to use heavy chains or prong collars which often lead to injury and behavior issues.
- To end unsafe tethering practices which leads to strangulation deaths.
- To end the unsafe practice of dog riding in the back of trucks without being secure. Dogs have flown out of trucks in accidents, causing death and injury to themselves and passengers. In addition, dog have jumped out of trucks at stops and attacked other animals causing injury and death.
- To end the use of long leashes in public areas. The use of long leads or retractable leashes prohibits owners from having control of their dog. We have seen multiple injuries and deaths of dogs that were either on a retractable leash or long lead, or by a dog on a long lead. Those types of leashes also cause handler injuries including amputations. Dogs in public need to be under control at all times and the gold standard length for leash control of a dog is a 6 foot lead.
- Ordinances of this nature increase public safety and reduce the belief that relying on breed specific legislation is the answer in reducing dog related injuries and deaths. All owners should be aware that dogs can behave differently in public, can bite if fearful or provoked and it is their responsibility always to ensure the community is never placed in a position to encounter their animal unless it is under their control and management.
- These ordinances are successfully used in many other municipalities across the country and are becoming standard language.

Proposed DRAFT Unlawful Restraint of a Dog Ordinance

Definitions

(1) "Collar" means any non-choke collar or harness constructed of nylon, leather, or similar material, specifically designed to be used for a dog.

(2) "Owner" means a person who owns or has custody or control of a dog.

(3) "Properly fitted" means, with respect to a collar, a collar that measures the circumference of a dog's neck plus at least one inch.

(4) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

(a) An owner may not leave a dog unattended by use of a restraint:

(1) on public property or on public streets;

(2) outdoors in the case of extreme weather conditions, including conditions in which:

(A) the actual or effective outdoor temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit;

(B) the actual or effective outdoor temperature is above 85 degrees Fahrenheit; or

(C) a heat or wind chill advisory has been issued for the jurisdiction by the National Weather Service.

(2) by use of a collar that is pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type or that is not properly fitted to the dog;

(3) is a length shorter than the greater of:

(a) 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; or

(b) 10 feet;

(4) not designed for dogs. Logging chains, tow chains or other lines or devices not intended for the purpose of restraining dogs may be used. No chain or tether shall weigh more than one-eighth of the dog's body weight.

(5) free from entanglement to allow free movement of the full length of tether;

(6) is in an unsafe condition; or

(7) causes injury to the dog.

Proposed DRAFT Transporting Dogs in Pickup Trucks

This language is standard and can be added to existing animal ordinances.

- No person driving a pickup truck shall transport any dog in the back of the vehicle on a public way, unless the space is enclosed, the dog is cross tethered to the vehicle, the dog is protected by a secured container or cage, or the dog is otherwise protected, in a manner which will prevent the dog from being thrown or from falling or jumping from the vehicle.

Proposed DRAFT Change to Leash Ordinances

I did not write language for this as all municipalities have an ordinance for leashes already, this would simply be a change in the ordinance giving more definition to how long a leash may be when in public and the expectation of the handler being able to manage the dog in a situation when it meets another resident or animal in public.

- Require that all leashed animals be on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length on public streets, sidewalks and parks.
- Require handlers be of the age, stature and ability to properly restrain and manage the dog in a safe manner when on public property or streets and sidewalks.