

Take the time to learn about this issue and help Break the Chain.



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 the 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 dog for long periods of time, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600. A code enforcement 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



A new Pinellas County ordinance makes it illegal to tie or chain your dog outside except for brief, temporary periods of time.

**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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08/10

IT'S THE LAW

BREAK THE CHAIN



DON'T TETHER YOUR DOG!





How is the ordinance enforced?

- Through education, dog owners will find out about the tethering law and why it is in effect.
- If the dog owner continues to illegally tether their dog, code enforcement officers will issue a warning.
- After the warning, there will be an investigation.
- **Violators will receive citations and fines of up to \$500.**

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.

A dog left outside is a target. They are fair game for fleas and other insects, teasing from kids and even adults, and 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. Or the empty bowls are not refreshed and 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.
- Dogs get sick from being outside for long periods of time.



Revisions to the Animal Service Ordinance

Chapter 14, Article II
Passed May 4, 2010

Under the new regulations, dog owners CAN NOT:

- Tether puppies
- Tether dogs that are sick or injured
- Use collars that choke or pinch when using a running line or pulley system.
- Tether at all during extreme weather This includes near-freezing temperatures, extreme heat, thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Tie a dog to a stationery object, such as a tree or fence, for a long time. A brief period of time is allowed, as when an owner completes a temporary task, like bringing in the groceries. During this time, the dog must have access to water, adequate shelter and dry ground.