

## TETHERING ORDINANCE

Pinellas County has enacted a law restricting the “tethering” of dogs. The new law took effect May 5, 2010.

The law states:

- (a) No person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain a dog, or cause a dog to be tethered, fastened, chained, tied, or restrained, to a dog house, tree, fence, or any other stationary object.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a person may do any of the following:
  - (1) Attach a dog to a running line, pulley, or trolley system. A dog shall not be tethered to a running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a choke-type, pinch-type, prong-type, or improperly fitting collar;
  - (2) Tether, fasten, chain, tie, or otherwise restrain a dog pursuant to the requirements of a camping or recreational area; or
  - (3) Tether, fasten, chain, or tie a dog no longer than is necessary for the person to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be restrained for a reasonable period.
- (c) In all cases where tethering is permissible the following conditions must be met:
  - (1) The tether has the following properties: it is at least five (5) times the length of the dog’s body, as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail; it terminates at both ends with a swivel; it does not weigh more than 1/8 of the dog’s weight; and it is free of tangles
  - (2) The dog is tethered in such a manner as to prevent injury, strangulation, or entanglement;
  - (3) The dog is not outside during a period of extreme weather, including without limitation extreme heat or near-freezing temperatures, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms, or hurricanes;
  - (4) The dog has access to water, adequate shelter, and dry ground;
  - (5) The dog is at least six (6) months of age. Puppies shall not be tethered; and
  - (6) The dog is not sick or injured.

Enforcement and penalties: Any person who violates this ordinance shall be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500.00. Additionally, any person who violates this ordinance may be subject to criminal charges under Florida Statute; Title XLVI, Chapter 828-Animals; Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection.