



Sec 6-8 Animal Restraint & Tethering Animals Ordinance Amendments

Frequently Asked Questions

Effective November 11, 2020, City of Denton's Animal Ordinance will make it unlawful to tether a domestic animal unless the person in care, custody and control of the animal remains with the animal throughout the time of restraint. Additionally, it will be unlawful to tether an animal to the back of an open bed style pick-up truck unless it's designed for and is transporting livestock. The City Council approved the amendment, along with a 100-day outreach.

What is tethering?

The terms "chaining" and "tethering" refer to the practice of fastening a dog to a stationary object and leaving them unattended. The term "chaining" tends to refer to situations where thick, heavy chains are used. "Tethering" is more often referred to partial restraint on a rope, lighter chain or pulley, which is the more prevalent form of tethering.

What are the restrictions of the new ordinance amendment?

1. It shall be unlawful to stake or restrain any domestic animal, outside on a leash, tether, chain or similar apparatus unless a person who is in control, custody, or caring for the animal remains with the animal throughout the period of restraint.
2. It shall be unlawful to tether any animal in the open bed of a pickup style vehicle that is open to the elements, unless the vehicle is a livestock trailer designed for the purpose of transporting livestock.

What exceptions are included in the amendment?

1. A person who is in control, custody, or caring for the animal remains with the animal throughout the period of restraint.

How long do people who currently tether have to make changes?

The amendment was adopted on November 11, 2020 and includes a 100-day period of extensive public outreach and education. Moreover, only warnings will be issued for the first six months of effectiveness (from Feb 1 – Jul 31). This is intended to give citizens ample time to become informed and make changes to comply with the new law.

What resources are available for those wanting to switch from tethering to another means of confinement?

There are several other means of confinement available to those wanting to switch from tethering. Citizens may switch to a pen/kennel enclosure; construct a fence; or choose to house their dog(s) indoors. Supplies for outdoor enclosures can be purchased at most hardware stores and many indoor confinement methods can be obtained at pet stores.

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BACKGROUND

Why did the City of Denton Animal Services consider tethering restrictions?

At the request of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee staff researched and brought forth amendments to make it unlawful to tether an unattended animal which were unanimously approved.

What are the reasons for these changes?

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee recommended these changes to Denton Animal Services because of their concern with both public safety and animal welfare.

Why tethering? Can't dogs be neglected and abused in kennels as well?

While it is true that dogs can be neglected in any situation, tethering raises additional community concerns. The lack of a barrier between the dog and outside world raises the risk of dog bites and can make some dogs vulnerable to unwanted breeding (contributing to pet overpopulation) and attack by roaming dogs or other animals.