



Effective January 22, 2008- Tethering Ordinance:

That Section 6-1 "Definitions." of Chapter 6 of The Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:

Direct Physical Control means within the owner's observation and in such close proximity as to permit the owner reasonable opportunity to control the animal, should it become necessary to do so in order to protect the animal, a human or another animal from harm.

Properly Fitted with respect to a collar or other neck restraint means one that measures the circumference of a dog's neck plus at least one inch. With respect to a harness, properly fitted means one that is of an adequate size, design, and construction as appropriate for the dog's size and weight.

Dog Tethering means using a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device to attach a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

That Section 6- 13 "Restraint of Animals" of Chapter 6 of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, is hereby amended to amend subsection (d) and to add new subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(d) It shall be unlawful for a person to use a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device to attach a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (d) that the dog tethering:

- (1) is during a lawful animal event, veterinary treatment, grooming, training, or law enforcement activity;
- (2) is required to protect the safety or welfare of a person or the dog, and the dog's owner maintains direct physical control of the dog;
- (3) occurs in the direct physical control of the owner in a designated City dog park; or
- (4) occurs on the owner's premises and:
 - a. while the dog is within the owner's direct physical control; and
 - b. prevents the dog from advancing to within fifteen (15) feet of the edge of any public street.

(f) The affirmative defenses provided in subsection (e) are only available if the following specifications are met:

- (1) The chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device is attached to a properly fitted collar or harness worn by the dog;

- (2) The chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device is not placed directly around the dog's neck;
 - (3) The chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device does not exceed 1/20th of the dog's body weight;
 - (4) The chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device, by design and placement allows the dog a reasonable and unobstructed range of motion without entanglement, and
 - (5) The dog has access to adequate shelter and clean and wholesome water.
- (g) A person commits an offense if the person fails to comply with this Section.
- (1) An offense under this Section is a Class C misdemeanor. If a person fails to comply with this section with respect to more than one dog, the person's conduct with respect to each dog constitutes a separate offense.
 - (2) An offense under this Section is punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).
- (h) This section does not prohibit a person from walking a dog with a hand-held leash.