

THE CITY OF ROYSTON - MARSHAL'S OFFICE



TETHERING ORDINANCE INFORMATION / NOTICE

- WHAT IS TETHERING?
 - Tethering is defined as; attached whether by chain, rope, tie, leash, or other fastener whether inside a structure, vehicle, or outdoors to anything included but not limited to a doghouse, tree, fence, other animal, vehicle, runner, railing, house, or furniture.
 - Provided however that a leash attached to a properly fitted harness or collar worn by a dog on one end and that is held by an individual or is attached to a belt or similar item worn by an individual is not considered a tether.

- WHY IS TETHERING HAZARDOUS?
 - Dogs feel protective of their territory. When confronted with a perceived threat, their fight-or-flight instinct kicks in. A chained dog, unable to flee, often feels forced to fight. Tragically, the victims of chained dog attacks are usually children.
 - Dogs are social beings who thrive on interaction with people and animals. A dog kept chained for months or years **suffers psychological damage**. Chained dogs often become anxious and aggressive. Their necks can become infected from too-tight collars. Chains get tangled, strangling the dogs. They can't escape storms or attacking animals.

- THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONSIDERS TETHERING INHUMANE
 - "Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement, and potentially causing injury."

- WHAT DOES THE NEW TETHERING LAW SAY IN ROYSTON?
 - CHAPTER 14, ANIMALS – ARTICLE II, DOGS – SECTION 14-38
 - UNSUPERVISED TETHERING OF DOGS
 - A dog **MAY ONLY** be tethered if it is attended, and such tethering is temporary.
 - Use of a chain is **NOT** permitted to tether a dog.
 - Use of a choke, prong, pinch collar, or slip lead is **PROHIBITED**.
 - Attaching a lock or weight to the dog or its harness or collar is **PROHIBITED**.
 - Restricting the dog's range of movement to less than 10 feet, considering the height of the tether attachment point, and length of the tether; that it might entangle or shorten the range of motion of the animal should it become entangled on any object.
 - Using a tethering device, that when combined with the entire weight of the object(s) used, may possibly be at or above 5% of the animal's weight, is **PROHIBITED**.
 - Tethering a dog, in such a manner as to potentially become entangled in/on any stationary object nearby is **PROHIBITED**. Including, but not limited to, a railing or fence.

- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER OF THE DOG (OR THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY) TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT IN VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.
 - Each violation of this ordinance shall be a separate offense.
 - Date of adoption to Municipal Ordinance or Law – October 10, 2023

- REMEMBER!!
 - Dogs at large (roaming freely) or off your property, is a violation of Municipal law. You are responsible for maintaining your animal on your property, at all times, in a humane and ethical manner.

- HOW CAN I BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW ORDINANCE?

○ **There are several commonsense alternatives to inhumane tethering.**

- **Secure Fencing** – Allowing a dog to roam freely inside the City of Royston is a violation of Municipal Law as well. Your dog must be kept inside of your property in a humane and ethical manner. Traditional chain link or privacy fencing is a common approach.
- **Underground Electronic Fencing** - No more leash for them, no more worrying for you! **Out of Sight Electronic Dog Fencing** is a safe, affordable alternative to conventional fencing.
- **Playpens** - A low-cost alternative to a dog chain is a playpen. You'll find dozens of sturdy and spacious dog playpens on the market that let your dog play unrestrained both inside and outside.
- **Moving the dog Indoors** - You can introduce your dog to your home by showing them around indoors with a happy voice, treats, and play. Show him/her where the food bowls and sleeping areas are and lay out the toys. The comfort of a familiar bed or crate can be helpful. Most dogs love the comforts found indoors. A cozy bed, good food and plenty of toys — who wouldn't want to spend days inside cuddling on the couch?
- **Relocation** – As a last resort, you may consider relocating the dog to a safer, more secure, and more comfortable property. Consider a farm or other location where the dog will not spend its life, at the end of a chain. **Be sure to take into consideration the quality of life for your dog.**

- REMEMBER!!

- Tethered dogs may also suffer from irregular feeding, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, and extreme temperatures. During snow or rain, these dogs often have no access to shelter. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun.
- Owners who chain their dogs are less likely to clean the area of confinement, causing the dogs to eat and sleep in an area contaminated with urine and feces. Because their often-neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection. Tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.