

LOCAL LAW NO. "G" FOR 2018

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT CANINES MAY BE RESTRAINED OUTDOORS TO NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS IN ANY CONTINUOUS TWELVE-HOUR PERIOD

Introduced: 4/9/18

By Mr. Clenahan and Ms. Cunningham:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that the Albany County Legislature has been a leader in protecting the health and welfare of animals in Albany County.

This Legislature also finds and determines that animal owners will sometimes tie their animals to a stationary object outdoors for a short period of time.

This Legislature further finds and determines that some owners, however, leave their animals tied to a stationary object outdoors for long periods of time, in some cases, all day.

This Legislature finds that animals left tied to an object outdoors for prolonged periods often do not have sufficient food, water or shelter from inclement weather.

This Legislature further finds that tethers, chains and other restraints can also injure animals, as the restraint may tangle or catch on other objects.

This Legislature also finds that dogs left on tethers, chains and other restraints may be more aggressive and create a public safety hazard.

This Legislature also determines that it is in the best interests of Albany County residents and their pets to limit the amount of time animals spend tied outdoors to a stationary object.

Therefore, the purpose of this Local Law is to limit the length of time that animals may be restrained outdoors to no more than two hours in any continuous twelve-hour period.

Section 2. Definitions

As used in this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, society, association, or any organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not.

Section 3. Prohibitions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, leash, fasten, secure, restrain, chain or tie a dog to any stationary object outdoors or cause such dog to be restrained in a manner that:

- (1) Endangers such dog's health, safety or well-being;
- (2) Restricts such dog's access to suitable and sufficient food and water;
- (3) Does not provide such dog with shelter appropriate to its breed, physical condition, and the climate as defined by §353-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law; or
- (4) Unreasonably limits the movement of such dog because it is too short for the dog to move around or for the dog to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area where it must eat, drink or lie down.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (a) of this Section, no person shall tether, leash, fasten, secure, restrain, chain or tie a dog to any object with a device that:

- (1) Is a choke collar or pinch collar, or a similar collar that tightens when pulled;
- (2) Restrains the dog in such a manner that it impairs the flow of oxygen or blood to the dog which may cause choking or causes substantial discomfort to the dog;
- (3) Is embedded, partially embedded or may become embedded in such dog's skin;
- (4) Has weights attached or contains links that are more than 1/4 inch thick;
- (5) Weighs more than 25% of the dog's total body weight, not to exceed 25 pounds for any dog;
- (6) Is less than 10 feet in length;
- (7) Because of its design or placement is likely to become entangled;
- (8) Is long enough to allow such dog to move outside of its owner's property;
or
- (9) Would allow the restrained dog to move over an object or edge that could result in the strangulation of or injury to such dog.

(c) No person shall tether, leash, fasten, secure, restrain, chain or tie a dog to any stationary object outdoors for more than two hours in any twelve-hour period. And if the dog is tethered to a pulley, running line, or trolley or cable system, the top line must be a minimum of fifteen feet long and six or less feet above the ground.

(d) No person shall tether, leash, fasten, secure, restrain, chain or tie a dog to any stationary object outdoors for any period of time if:

- (1) The dog is less than 6 months old;
- (2) There is an active weather alert;
- (3) Tethering may exacerbate an existing health condition;
- (4) Multiple dogs are tethered and their tethers may become entangled; or
- (5) The dog is not displaying current identification as defined by section § 108 of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law.

Section 4. Enforcement.

This Local Law shall be enforced by the office of the Albany County Sheriff and may also be enforced by any police officer, peace officer, or local dog control or animal control officer with jurisdiction within Albany County.

Section 5. Penalties for offenses.

A violation of this Local Law shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$150 for a first offense, by a fine of not more than \$300 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$500 for a third or subsequent offense.

Section 6. Applicability.

This article shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this Local Law.

Section 7. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 4/9/18