



Substitute House Bill No. 5170

Public Act No. 22-59

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TETHERING AND SHELTERING OF DOGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley (1) by means of [:(1) A] a (A) tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction, [(2) a] (B) tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting and tangling, unless a person is in the presence of such dog, [(3) a] (C) coat hanger, choke collar, prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar, halter or device that is not specifically designed or properly fitted for the restraint of such dog, [(4) a] (D) tether that has weights attached or that contains metal chain links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or [(5) a] (E) tether that allows such dog to reach an object or hazard, including, but not limited to, a window sill, edge of a pool, fence, public road or highway, porch or terrace railing that poses a risk of injury or strangulation to such dog if such dog walks into or jumps over such object or hazard, unless a person is in the presence of such dog; or (2)

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without providing such dog potable water at least twice in each twenty-four-hour period. The provisions of [subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection] subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be construed to apply to: [(A)] (i) Any veterinary practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197 that tethers a dog in the course of such veterinary practice, [(B)] (ii) any exhibition, show, contest or other temporary event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of such dog is judged or examined, [(C)] (iii) any exhibition, class, training session or other temporary event in which such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of wildlife or in which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to hunt such species of wildlife, [(D)] (iv) the temporary tethering of a dog at any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or [(E)] (v) the temporary tethering of a dog at a grooming facility in the course of grooming such dog.

(b) [No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationary object or to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley, when] When either a weather advisory or warning is issued by [local, state or federal authorities] the National Weather Service, or [when] outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not limited to, extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or hail, pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of [such] a dog based on such dog's breed, size, age, thickness of coat or physical condition, [unless tethering is for a duration of not longer than fifteen minutes] no person shall (1) tether such dog outdoors to a stationary object or mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley, unless such tethering is for a duration of not more than fifteen minutes, or (2) fail to provide such dog adequate shelter for a duration of more than fifteen minutes, unless such person is in the presence of such dog and outdoors during such advisory or warning or exposed to such outdoor environmental conditions.

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(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any protection afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the general statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local ordinance or local regulation.

(d) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be fined one hundred dollars for the first offense, two hundred dollars for a second offense, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for a third or subsequent offense.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "adequate shelter" means a structure that (1) provides natural or artificial light during daylight hours; (2) offers space adequate for a dog to sit, lie down and turn; (3) is soundly constructed, maintained in good repair and free from accumulated animal waste, debris and moisture, including, but not limited to, standing water and mud, inside and in the immediate vicinity of such shelter; (4) permits a dog access to potable water at least twice in each twenty-four-hour period; (5) during cold outdoor environmental conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, (A) is enclosed and insulated to an extent sufficient to permit a dog to maintain normal body temperature, (B) features a solid roof, solid walls and wind-protected opening for entry and exit, (C) is raised two or more inches off the ground, and (D) contains dry bedding; (6) during extreme heat outdoor weather environmental conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, provides shade and ventilation sufficient to permit a dog to maintain normal body temperature; (7) does not contain a space heater or wood or fuel burning equipment utilized for space heating; (8) is not located under exterior stairs or underneath or inside a motor vehicle; and (9) if the floor of such structure is constructed using wire or metal chain links, such links are appropriately sized so that a dog's paws will not become caught in such links.

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