The Law:

Restraint Requirements.

- **TETHER** - To restrain an animal by means of a chain, lead, runner, cable, rope, or similar device attached either to a stationary object or to a running line, pulley, or trolley system.
- **Physical Restraint**. A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over an animal shall keep the animal under humane physical restraint at all times.
- **Owner's Premises**. A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over an animal on his or her premises shall restrain the animal either by a secure enclosure or by immediate control.
  - A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over a dog on his or her premises may use a tether as a temporary means of restraint only.
    - A person shall not tether a dog to a stationary object for more than two (2) hours in any twelve (12) hour period.
    - A person shall not tether a dog to a running line, pulley, or trolley system for more than four (4) hours in any twelve (12) hour period.
    - A person shall not tether a dog in an unenclosed area where people or other animals are able to wander into the proximity of the tethered dog.
    - A tether used to restrain a dog shall be at least twelve (12) feet in length. Such tether shall not enable the animal to reach beyond the owner's property.
    - A tether used to restrain a dog shall be affixed to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the dog. A person shall not wrap a chain or tether directly around the neck or other body part of a dog.
    - A tether used to restrain a dog shall not weigh more than one-eighth (1/8) of the animal's body weight. The tether weight shall include any additional objects attached to the dog or tether, such as locks or fasteners.
    - A tether used to restrain a dog shall have working swivels on both ends and shall be fastened so that the animal may sit, walk, and lie down using natural motions. Such tether shall be unobstructed by objects that may cause the tether or animal to become entangled or strangled.

For the Complete Ordinance please visit:
http://donaanacounty.org/animal/

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide efficient and quality service to the citizens of Doña Ana County by providing protection for them and their property from the dangers and nuisances caused by stray animals, to protect pets from the cruelty they may face from irresponsible citizens, and to educate the public in the responsibilities of pet ownership, animal control, care, and welfare.

Contact Us:

Central Dispatch:
575-526-0795
1-800-260-0911

Our Offices:
575-525-8846
2024 E. Griggs
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Website:
http://donaanacounty.org/animal/

Doña Ana County

Animal Control Division

Off The Chain!

Off The Chain!

Delayed Effective Date

The provisions of the Restraint Requirements which limit the number of hours a person may tether their animal will not be in effect until January 17, 2016. During this delay, dog owners are encouraged to begin planning and preparing for these restrictions, and providing their dog with alternative forms of restraint that are preferable to tethering.

1. Is there a problem with continuous chaining or tethering?

Yes, the practice is both inhumane and a threat to the safety of the confined dog, other animals, and humans. Dogs are naturally social beings who thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. A dog kept chained in one spot for hours, days, months, or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious, and often aggressive. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores. Dogs have even been found with collars embedded in their necks.

2. How is chaining a danger to humans?

Dogs tethered for long periods can become highly aggressive. Dogs feel naturally protective of their territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory.

3. Why is tethering dangerous to dogs?

In addition to the psychological damage wrought by continuous chaining, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans, and biting insects. A chained animal may suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans, stinging bites from insects, and, in the worst cases, attacks by other animals. Chained dogs are also easy targets for thieves. Also a chained dog often becomes entangled with other objects, which can prevent the dog from reaching water and shelter, and even strangle the dog to death.

Getting Your Dog Off The Chain!

The second reason for the tougher stance on chaining is that many dog owners have learned to solve the problems that caused them to tie their dogs outside in the first place. If you would like to provide your dog with an alternative to a rope or chain, consider these suggestions:

- Install a fence if your property does not already have one. Or consider installing a large chain-link dog run. If you install a dog run, make sure there is adequate space provided.
- If you have a fence and your dog can jump over it, install a 45-degree inward extension to the top of your existing fence.
- If your dog digs under the fence to escape your yard, bury mesh wire to a depth of one foot below where the fence meets the ground. Or bury cinder blocks at the base of the fence.
- Spay or neuter your dog if you haven't already done so. A neutered dog is less likely to roam and more content to stay at home. These are safe procedures that have many health and behavioral benefits. Ask your veterinarian for more information.
- Remember that behavior problems such as barking, chewing, and digging are often the result of a lack of stimulation. By providing your dog with proper toys, exercise, "people time," and positive reinforcement, you may alter undesirable behaviors and teach acceptable house manners. In addition, a dog who is inside the house is much more likely to deter an intruder than a dog chained in the yard.

Educational material for this flier was obtained from the HSUS at: ***http://www.hsus.org/***
And from the Dumb Friends League at: ***http://www.ddfl.org/***