



Palm Beach County ANTI – TETHERING LAW FOR DOGS

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the existing County Ordinance on tethering animals. As of September 1, 2003, it is unlawful to chain or tether your dog outdoors between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (County Ordinance 2003-029)

When Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control receives complaints about dogs tied up outdoors, officials will respond and issue a violation (warning) during the first visit. It is important that residents calling in a complaint be very specific about the address and identification of the animal(s) being tied up during the specified times.

Animals that are sufficiently housed in kennel runs or fenced yards and have adequate shelter, food, and fresh water are not considered tethered outdoors.

Penalties for tethering violations:

- 1st Offense Written Warning
- 2nd Offense \$ 91 Fine
- 3rd Offense \$166 Fine
- 4th Offense Mandatory Court Appearance & up to \$500 Fine



Why Dogs Should not be Tethered or Chained Outdoors:

- Exposure to cold or extremely hot weather
- Tendency to become tangled in tether/chain
- Becomes aggressive towards humans and other animals
- Mental stress
- No companionship; poor socialization
- Health deterioration: internal/external parasites
- Tendency to become territorial
- Can develop ‘storm phobia’
- Being teased and tormented
- Skin problems from constant exposure to humidity and rain
- Collar not usually checked and becomes embedded around neck
- Sun burn and at risk for heat stroke
- Increased exposure to rabid wild animals
- Attack from free roaming animals

**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners
Public Safety Department
Animal Care & Control Division**



To report a tethered dog, call 561-233-1200, ext. 0. Pahokee/Belle Glade residents call 924-5656. Boca and Delray residents call 276-1344, ext. 0.