

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 2014

By: Nollan

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to tethered dogs; restricting manner  
8 in which any dog is restrained by a tether;  
9 prohibiting dog to be tethered in manner that causes  
10 entanglement; requiring separate tethers for multiple  
11 dogs; requiring tether to allow for certain range of  
12 movement; prohibiting tether under certain  
13 conditions; requiring tethered dog to have access to  
14 water and shelter; prohibiting tether in certain  
15 instances; prohibiting dog to be tethered by certain  
16 collar or harness; providing exceptions; defining  
17 term; authorizing municipality to enact certain  
18 ordinances; providing for codification; and providing  
19 an effective date.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 22-115.2 of Title 11, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. Any dog that is restrained outside by a tether shall only be  
restrained for a period of time that is not reckless and is in  
compliance with this section.

1 B. The dog shall not be tethered in a manner that results, or  
2 could reasonably result, in the dog becoming frequently entangled on  
3 the restraint or another object.

4 C. If there are multiple dogs tethered, each dog shall be on a  
5 separate tether and shall not be secured to the same fixed point.

6 D. The tether shall allow the dog to sit, lie down and stand  
7 comfortably without the restraint becoming taut and allow the dog a  
8 range of movement. The weight of the tether shall not unreasonably  
9 inhibit the free movement of the dog within the area allowed by the  
10 length of the tether.

11 E. A dog shall not be tethered if it is ill, suffering from a  
12 debilitating disease, injured, in distress, in the advanced stages  
13 of pregnancy or under six (6) months of age.

14 F. A tethered dog shall have access to clean water and  
15 necessary shelter that is safe and protective while tethered. The  
16 shelter and water vessel shall be constructed or attached in such a  
17 way that the dog cannot knock over the shelter or water vessel.

18 G. A dog shall not be tethered in a manner that causes the dog  
19 injury or pain or results in the dog being left in unsafe or  
20 unsanitary conditions or that forces the dog to stand, sit or lie  
21 down in its own excrement or urine.

22 H. A dog shall not be tethered by means of a choke, pinch,  
23 slip, halter or prong-type collar, or by any means other than with a  
24 properly fitted buckle-type collar or harness that provides enough

1 room between the collar or harness and the dog's throat to allow  
2 normal breathing and swallowing.

3 I. The provisions of subsections A through E of this section do  
4 not apply to a dog that is:

5 1. Tethered while it is receiving medical care or treatment  
6 under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or is being  
7 groomed;

8 2. Participating temporarily in an exhibition, show, contest or  
9 other event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of the dog is  
10 judged or examined;

11 3. Being kept temporarily at a camping or recreation area;

12 4. Being cared for temporarily after having been picked up as a  
13 stray or as part of a rescue operation;

14 5. Being transported in a motor vehicle or temporarily  
15 restrained or tied after being unloaded from a motor vehicle;

16 6. Being trained or used by a federal, state or local law  
17 enforcement agency or military or national guard unit; or

18 7. In the physical presence of the person who owns, keeps or  
19 controls the dog.

20 J. As used in this section, "tether" shall mean a line  
21 connected to a stationary object by which an animal is fastened so  
22 as to restrict its range of movement.

23 K. Any municipality is hereby authorized to enact an ordinance  
24 consistent with the provisions of this section and to enforce the

1 ordinance by prosecution of violations in the municipal court, as  
2 provided by law.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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5 57-1-5572 AMM 12/28/18

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