

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 2993

By: Luttrell

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to animals; enacting the Humane Tether Act of 2022; prohibiting certain cruel and inhumane actions; prohibiting persons from chaining or tethering a dog under certain circumstances; defining terms; providing requirements for tethering dogs; prohibiting leaving a dog outside in certain weather conditions; providing exceptions; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 48 of Title 4, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Humane Tether Act of 2022".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 48.1 of Title 4, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It shall be unlawful to tie, tether or restrain any dog in a manner that is inhumane or detrimental to its welfare. No person

1 owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog outside unless
2 the tether is designed for dogs. Furthermore, the use of logging
3 chains or other lines or devices not designed for tethering dogs
4 shall be prohibited. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
5 prohibit a person from walking a dog on a handheld leash.

6 B. No person owning or keeping a dog shall subject the dog to
7 cruel conditions or inhumane chaining or tethering at any time. For
8 the purposes of this subsection, "cruel conditions" and "inhumane
9 chaining or tethering" shall include, but not be limited to, the
10 following conditions:

11 1. Filthy and dirty confinement conditions including, but not
12 limited to, exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, dirty
13 water, noxious odors, dangerous objects that could injure or kill a
14 dog upon contact or other circumstances that could cause harm to a
15 dog's physical or emotional health;

16 2. Taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening or
17 otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog; or

18 3. Subjecting a dog to dangerous conditions, including attacks
19 by other animals.

20 C. A person owning or keeping a dog may confine such dog
21 outside, subject to the restrictions in this section, through the
22 use of any of the following methods:

23 1. Inside a pen or secure enclosure that has adequate space and
24 continuous access to clean water and appropriate shelter;

1 2. Inside a fully fenced, electronically fenced or an otherwise
2 securely enclosed yard; or

3 3. With a trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley in a
4 cable run, if the following conditions are met:

5 a. only one dog shall be tethered to each cable run,

6 b. there shall be a swivel on at least one end of the
7 tether to minimize tangling of the tether, and

8 c. the length of the tether from the cable run to the
9 dog's collar or harness shall allow continuous access
10 to clean water and appropriate shelter at all times.

11 D. A person shall not leave a dog outside when a weather
12 advisory, warning or watch is issued by a local, state or federal
13 authority in the area where the dog is located or when outside
14 environmental conditions including, but not limited to, extreme
15 heat, extreme cold, extreme wind, rain, snow or hail that pose an
16 adverse risk to the health or safety of the dog.

17 E. An exception to a restriction on outdoor confinement under
18 this section that is reasonably necessary for the safety of a dog
19 shall be made for a dog that is:

20 1. Present in a camping or recreational area pursuant to the
21 policy of the camping or recreational area; or

22 2. Actively engaged in conduct that is directly related to the
23 business of shepherding or herding cattle or other livestock or
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1 engaged in conduct that is directly related to the business of
2 cultivating agricultural products.

3 F. A person who violates this section shall for a first offense
4 be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of not more than
5 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), for a second offense be punished by a fine
6 of not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and for a third or
7 subsequent offense be punished by a fine of not more than Five
8 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and be subject to impoundment of the dog
9 in a local shelter at the owner's, keeper's or guardian's expense
10 pending compliance with this section, or loss of ownership of the
11 dog.

12 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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