

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1326

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to animals; prohibiting persons from chaining or tethering a dog under certain circumstances; requiring tethers meet certain requirements; providing conditions for which a person may confine a dog outside; requiring access to water and shelter; providing shelter enclosure requirements; prohibiting certain cruel conditions and inhumane actions; imposing penalties; 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 40 of Title 4, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. No person shall chain or tether a dog outside, unless the tether shall be designed for dogs. The use of logging chains or other lines or devices not designed for tethering dogs shall be prohibited. No chain or tether shall weigh more than one-eighth of the dog's body weight. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog on a handheld leash.

1 B. A person owning or keeping a dog may confine such dog
2 outside, subject to the restrictions in this section, through the
3 use of any of the following methods:

4 1. Inside a pen or secure enclosure, which shall have adequate
5 space for exercise; provided, however, commercial dog kennels with
6 pens intended for the temporary boarding of dogs shall be exempt
7 from this requirement;

8 2. Inside a fully fenced, electronically fenced, or otherwise
9 securely enclosed yard, wherein a dog has the ability to run, but is
10 unable to leave the enclosed yard; or

11 3. With a trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley in a
12 cable run; provided, however, that a trolley system or tether shall
13 be no longer than three times the length of the dog to confine the
14 dog to the owner's or keeper's property, to prevent the trolley
15 system or tether from extending over an object to an edge that could
16 result in injury to or strangulation of the dog, and to prevent the
17 trolley system or tether from becoming tangled with other objects or
18 animals.

19 C. A person owning or keeping a dog confined outside in
20 accordance with subsection B of this section shall provide the dog
21 with access to both clean water and an appropriate dog shelter. The
22 dog shelter shall allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the
23 elements and shall be fully enclosed on at least three sides, roofed
24 and have a solid floor.

1 D. No person owning or keeping a dog shall subject the dog to
2 cruel conditions or inhumane chaining or tethering at any time. For
3 the purposes of this subsection, "cruel conditions" and "inhumane
4 chaining or tethering" shall include, but not be limited to, the
5 following conditions:

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

11 2. Taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening, or
12 otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog; and

13 3. Subjecting a dog to dangerous conditions including attacks
14 by other animals.

15 E. A person who violates this section shall for a first offense
16 be issued a written warning, for a second offense be punished by a
17 fine not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), and for a third or
18 subsequent offense be punished by a fine not more than Five Hundred
19 Dollars (\$500.00), and be subject to impoundment of the dog in a
20 local shelter at the owner's or keeper's expense pending compliance
21 with this section, or loss of ownership of the dog.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.
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