



**MICHIGAN
ANTI-CRUELTY
SOCIETY**

NEW ANTI-TETHERING ORDINANCE IN DETROIT

In an effort to increase public safety and improve the lives of owned dogs, Detroit City Council unanimously passed a new ordinance that addresses prolonged tethering. The new ordinance went into effect in March and Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society (MACS) is working with Detroit Animal Care and Control to get the word out and provide resources to dog owners in need.

Dogs that are tethered for long periods of time can become territorial and aggressive. Even the beloved family dog can become dangerous if not properly socialized. When left unsupervised in an open area, tethered dogs are also defenseless against attacks by people or other animals.

The new ordinance states no dog owner shall:

- Continuously tether a dog for more than three hours per day
- Tether a dog using a tether made of anything but a coated steel cable at any length less than three times the length of the dog measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail
- Use a tether or any assembly or attachments that amount to more than 10% of the dog's weight or that significantly inhibit the movement of the dog within the tethered area
- Attach a dog to a tether by means of any implement other than a buckle-type collar or harness, so as to risk injury, strangulation, or entanglement of the dog on fences, trees, or other obstacles
- Tether a dog without access to shade when sunlight is likely to cause overheating or without access to appropriate shelter for insulation and protection against cold and dampness when the atmospheric temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit
- Tether a dog without securing its food and water source to prevent its being tipped over or spilled by the tether
- Tether a dog in an open area that does not provide the dog protection from attack from people or other animals
- Tether a dog in an area composed entirely of bare earth subject to becoming wet and muddy in the event of precipitation, and without any dry surface area for cover or protection
- Tether a dog under four months old
- Tether more than one dog to a single tether

- Tether a dog to a stationary object that would allow the dog to come within five feet of any property line
- Tether a dog without a swivel attached or equipped at both ends

Using rope or a metal chain would be a violation. Dog owners who do not comply with the ordinance face penalties up to \$500 and possible relinquishment of the dog to animal control for a third offense.

To assist Detroit dog owners in need comply with the new rules, MACS will try to help with supplies, as availability and conditions permit:

- Coated steel cable with swivel attachments
- Dog houses
- No-tip water and food bowls
- Enclosures or fencing

To request assistance, please call MACS at 313-891-7188 or email info@macsshelter.org.

About Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society

Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society has been helping pets and pet owners in Detroit since 1935. Every year MACS helps thousands of pet owners with free or low-cost veterinary services and other pet-related resources. MACS is located at 13569 Joseph Campau, Detroit, Michigan 48212. For more information, please visit www.macsshelter.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/macs1935.

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