



ANIMAL TETHERING LAW

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In 2013 Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed House Bill 2783 which became law in January of 2014. The House Bill amended Oregon Revised Statutes 167.310, 167.325 and 167.330.

The new tethering law restricts the amount of time an animal can be tethered during a 24 hour period, and defined standards for shelter and bedding for animals.

Tethering means to restrain a domestic animal by tying the animal to any object or structure by any means. **The changes to the law limits the time an animal can be tethered to 10 hours in a 24 hour period, or 15 hours if the tether is attached to a line, pulley or trolley.**

Tethering does not include using a hand-held leash for the purpose of exercising the dog.

It forbids the use of tethers which could entangle or endanger the animal, and prohibits the use of pinch or choke collars.

The changes to the law **include clarifications on minimum standards for shelter and bedding.** The law requires "adequate bedding" which keeps animals dry and reasonably clean with normal body temperatures. **Adequate shelter that protects animals from the elements and prevents injury is required.** Crawl spaces, steps, decks, stoops and the underside of vehicles are not adequate shelters. Pet carriers and crates used for transport, or shelters that fall apart in the elements are not considered adequate shelters.

An animal cannot be kept in a vehicle for an extended time, and shelters with chain link floors are not usable for dogs. The dog's surroundings must be free of impediments that could harm them.

The bill included exemptions involving dogs being used for hunting, dog sledding and protecting livestock.

Unlawful tethering is a Class B Violation. Tethering that results in physical injury to a dog would be a Class B misdemeanor, and tethering resulting in serious physical injury or death to the dog would be a Class A misdemeanor.

Note: The above material has been provided to assist our community with understanding some recent changes in the laws regarding animal care. It should not be considered an inclusive version of the above referenced Oregon Statutes or amendments. A complete copy of the referenced laws can be found at other legal sources.