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APR 01 2011



Senate of Pennsylvania

RICHARD ALLOWAY, II
SENATOR


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TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Richard Alloway II 
Senator Andrew E. Dinniman

RE: Introduction of Legislation – Tethering of Dogs

DATE: April 1, 2011

In the near future, we plan on introducing legislation regarding the tethering of dogs in Pennsylvania. This legislation will amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) further providing for the offense of tethering of dogs.

Tethering of dogs is cruel and inhumane. Dogs are highly social pack animals who thrive on human and animal interaction and companionship.

To a dog, being constantly tethered is like solitary confinement is to a human being. An otherwise friendly dog, when kept tethered becomes unhappy, anxious, and often aggressive and develops neurotic behaviors such as incessant barking, digging and chewing.

Dog's tethers can become entangled with other objects, severely restrict movement, cause serious injury, infection and death. Tethered dogs are more times likely to bite than dogs that are not perpetually chained.

Perpetually tethered dogs lead miserable lives! They live, eat, and sleep on their own tiny patch of packed down dirt, full of excrement that their owners rarely clean. They are tormented by fleas, ticks, and other insects from which they cannot escape, and suffer from diseases which can kill them. Tethered dogs rarely receive proper care.

Currently, over 120 cities, counties, and towns in over 30 states have legislation prohibiting or restricting the perpetual tethering of dogs and more are quickly following suit. California and Texas have state-wide laws restricting the tethering of dogs for no more than three hours a day. Many other states currently have anti-tethering bills pending in their legislature.

If you are interested in joining us in protecting dogs from perpetual tethering please become a co-sponsor of this legislation by contacting Melissa Knepper at mknepper@pasen.gov or by phone at 772-2929.