



Dog Tethering Laws for Pennsylvania Dogs



No more than 9 hours tethered in a 24 hour period.



Tether must be the longer of 3 x length of dog or 10 feet.



Must be secured by an appropriate collar. No tow or log chains, no choke, pinch, prong or chain collars.



Temperature: Dogs can only be tethered for 30 minutes if the temperature is over 90 degrees or under 32 degrees.

All dogs must also be provided with:



Note: Dogs in pens with proper shelter/food/water are exempt from time limits.

ANIMAL ABUSE STATUTE OVERHAUL



TAKES EFFECT ON AUGUST 28, 2017



1. Improved tethering conditions for outside.

- No more than 9 hours tethered in 24 hour period.
- Tether must be the longer of 3x length of dog or 10 feet.
- No more than 30 minutes in 90+ or -32 degree weather.
- Must have water and shade.
- Must be secured by an appropriate collar — no tow or log chain, nor choke, pinch, prong, or chain collars.
- Tethered space must be clear of excessive waste.
- No open sores or wounds on the dog's body.



2. Added protections for horses.

Currently, most crimes against horses are graded as summary offenses — similar to traffic and littering violations.

This law aligns penalties for crimes against horses with penalties for crimes against dogs and cats.



3. Increased penalties for animal abuse.

Neglect

Penalties: Summary offense (up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$300 fine) OR misdemeanor of the third degree (up to 1 year in jail and/or \$2,000 fine) if neglect causes bodily injury or places the animal at imminent risk.

Cruelty

Penalty: Misdemeanor of the second degree (up to 2 years in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine).

Aggravated cruelty

Penalty: Felony of the third degree (up to 7 years in jail and/or a \$15,000 fine).



4. Ensures convicted animal abusers forfeit abused.

Requires forfeiture of animal of anyone convicted of a felony violation and allows for forfeiture upon other convictions.



5. Grants civil immunity for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Shields licensed doctors of veterinary medicine, technicians, and assistants who report animal cruelty in good faith from lawsuits.

GOVERNOR TOM WOLF