



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 5798

LCO No. 5056

05056HB05798ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNREASONABLE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-329a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (a) The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or
5 any municipal or regional animal control officer may take physical
6 custody of any animal when such animal control officer has reasonable
7 cause to believe that such animal is in imminent harm and is neglected,
8 [or is] cruelly treated or unreasonably confined or tethered in violation
9 of section 22-350a, as amended by this act, 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-
10 248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, and, not later than
11 ninety-six hours after taking physical custody, shall proceed as
12 provided in subsection (c) of this section, except that if, in the opinion
13 of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after
14 physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or
15 diseased that it should be destroyed immediately, such officer may
16 humanely destroy or cause such animal to be humanely destroyed.

17 Sec. 2. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

19 (a) No person shall confine a dog in an unreasonable manner. For
20 purposes of this subsection, a person confines a dog in an
21 unreasonable manner if such person confines a dog in an enclosure
22 that contains less than one hundred fifty square feet of area and is
23 regularly used by such dog to eat, sleep, drink and eliminate. The
24 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to: (1) Enclosures used to
25 confine a dog six months of age or younger, (2) kennels licensed
26 pursuant to section 22-342, (3) commercial kennels, pet shops, training
27 facilities or grooming facilities licensed pursuant to section 22-344, (4)
28 facilities utilized for the temporary board of dogs for the purpose of
29 finding new homes for such dogs, or (5) municipal or regional dog
30 pounds.

31 (b) No person shall tether a dog in an unreasonable manner. For
32 purposes of this subsection, a person tethers a dog in an unreasonable
33 manner if such person tethers, fastens, chains, ties or otherwise
34 restrains a dog: (1) By attaching such dog to a stationary object,
35 including, but not limited to, a tree, dog house or fence, between the
36 hours of ten o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m. for any period of time or
37 for a period of more than one hour during any other time of the day,
38 (2) by placing a choke or prong-type collar on such dog, or (3) in a
39 manner that could reasonably result in injury, strangulation or
40 entanglement of the dog by a man-made or natural object.

41 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to:
42 (1) A person who temporarily tethers, fastens, chains, ties or otherwise
43 restrains a dog to walk such dog with a hand-held leash, (2) tethering,
44 fastening, chaining, tying or otherwise restraining a dog during a dog
45 show or while traveling to or participating in veterinary treatment,
46 dog grooming, dog training exercises or canine law enforcement
47 activities, (3) activities intended to protect the safety or welfare of a
48 person, dog or another animal, provided the owner or keeper of the

49 dog remains with the dog while the dog is tethered, fastened, chained,
50 tied or otherwise restrained, or (4) the use of a choke or prong-type
51 collar on a dog, provided the dog is only temporarily restrained in
52 order to be walked with a hand-held leash.

53 (d) Any person who confines or tethers a dog [for] in an
54 unreasonable [period of time] manner in violation of subsection (a) or
55 (b) of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for
56 the first offense, not less than one hundred dollars or more than two
57 hundred fifty dollars for a second offense, and not less than two
58 hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for any
59 subsequent offense. Each day a dog is confined or tethered in violation
60 of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be a separate offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	22-329a(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2009	22-350a

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the unreasonable confinement and tethering of dogs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.; REP. MORIN, 28th Dist.
REP. DAVIS, 117th Dist.; REP. FONTANA, 87th Dist.
REP. HORNISH, 62nd Dist.; REP. PERONE, 137th Dist.

H.B. 5798