



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5844

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS
OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER
CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile
4 device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley by means of: [a:
5 (1) Tether] (1) A tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least
6 eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip
7 of such dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction,
8 (2) a tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting
9 and tangling, unless [the owner or keeper of such dog] a person is in
10 the immediate presence of such dog, (3) a coat hanger, choke collar,
11 prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar, halter or device that
12 is not specifically designed or properly fitted for the restraint of such
13 dog, (4) a tether that has weights attached or that contains metal chain
14 links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or (5) a tether that allows
15 such dog to reach an object or hazard, including, but not limited to, a
16 window sill, edge of a pool, fence, traffic, porch or terrace railing that
17 poses a [substantial] risk of injury or strangulation to such dog if such
18 dog walks into or jumps over such object or hazard, unless [the owner

19 or keeper of such dog is on the premises] a person is in the immediate
20 presence of such dog. The provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
21 subsection shall not be construed to apply to: (A) Any veterinary
22 practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197 that tethers a dog in the
23 course of such veterinary practice, (B) any exhibition, show, contest or
24 other temporary event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of such
25 dog is judged or examined, (C) any exhibition, class, training session or
26 other temporary event in which such dog is used in a lawful manner to
27 hunt a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of
28 wildlife or in which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to
29 hunt such species of wildlife, (D) the temporary tethering of a dog at
30 any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the
31 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, [or] (E) the
32 temporary tethering of a dog at a grooming facility in the course of
33 grooming such dog, or (F) the temporary tethering of a dog for a
34 period of time of not more than fifteen minutes in duration.

35 (b) No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationery object or to
36 a mobile device, including, but not limited to, any trolley or a pulley,
37 at any time between the hours of ten o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m.,
38 unless: (1) A person is outdoors in the presence of such dog, or (2) such
39 tethering occurs in an area that is enclosed on all sides by a fence,
40 improvement or similar structure.

41 (c) No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationery object or to
42 a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley,
43 when the outdoor temperature is greater than ninety degrees
44 Fahrenheit or is less than thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit, unless such
45 person provides such dog with a shelter or structure that protects such
46 dog from the applicable outdoor environmental conditions, including,
47 but not limited to, extreme heat or cold, rain, snow or ice, that pose an
48 adverse risk to the health or safety of such dog. The provisions of this
49 section shall not be construed to apply to: (1) Any exhibition, show,
50 contest or other temporary event at which the skill, breeding or
51 stamina of such dog is judged or examined, (2) any exhibition, class,

52 training session or other temporary event at which such dog is used in
53 a lawful manner to hunt a species of wildlife during the hunting
54 season for such species of wildlife or at which such dog receives
55 training in a lawful manner to hunt such species of wildlife, (3) the
56 temporary tethering of a dog at any camping or recreation area as
57 expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Energy and
58 Environmental Protection, or (4) the temporary tethering of a dog for a
59 period of time of not more than fifteen minutes in duration.

60 [(b)] (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any
61 protection afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the
62 general statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local
63 ordinance or local regulation.

64 [(c)] (e) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an
65 unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of
66 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of this section shall be fined one hundred
67 dollars for the first offense, two hundred dollars for a second offense,
68 and not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred
69 dollars for a third or subsequent offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	22-350a

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*