

SB 5356: An Act Relative to Tethering of Dogs

Sponsored by: Fain, Palumbo, Miloscia, Frockt, Bailey, Rolfes, Angel, Keiser, Conway, Pedersen, Wilson



Dogs (like people) are social animals, yet hundreds of thousands of dogs in the U.S. live their entire lives at the end of a chain. Constantly tied up outside, dogs become lonely, bored and anxious, and are often denied proper food and shelter. They can also develop aggressive behaviors. As we learn about the negative impact of chaining or tethering dogs, many states have begun passing laws against long-term chaining. SB 5356 will improve the lives of companion animals in Washington.

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



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- SB 5356 is good for law enforcement
 - It will create clear boundaries and set expectations
 - It will result in fewer nuisance and dog at large/loose dog complaints
 - "Tethering dogs is a huge public safety risk and a dog's worst nightmare." *Animal Control Officer Rebecca Crowley, Whatcom County*
- SB 5356 is good for animals
 - Many dogs are chained 24 hours a day
 - Chains are often very heavy and short, limiting the dogs capability to move
 - Collars often become embedded, leading to painful injuries
 - Dogs can strangle themselves if the tether gets tangled or caught
 - Chained dogs are often at risk from extreme weather conditions and can lack food/water/basic care
 - "Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts the dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury." *The Federal Register Vol. 1, No. 68, United States Department of Agriculture*
- SB 5356 is good for our communities
 - Chained dogs are a public nuisance, notorious for barking. Continuously chained dogs are so lonely and frustrated their only outlet is to bark.
 - When a dog is chained 24/7 he/she does not receive adequate exercise and the lack of mobility is aggravating. The pent-up energy can manifest itself as barking.
 - Chained dogs often become very defensive of their territory and protective of their small area.
 - Research conducted by the Center for Disease Control found that chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite than non-chained dogs. That number increases to 5.4 times more likely to bite children under the age of 12.