

BREAK

THE CHAINS



*"And homeless
near a thousand
homes I stood."*

Model Anti-Tethering Legislation to Protect Dogs

A PUBLICATION OF THE NO KILL ADVOCACY CENTER



Dogs Are Family

Protecting Our Best Friends from Loneliness, Neglect & Exposure

WHILE our laws demand that an animal kept as a companion receive the basic requirements of sustenance and shelter, there are no laws to guarantee an animal receive love and attention. For the dog, the absence of human attention and affection is tragic.

A cruel form of containment which sometimes accompanies the “backyard dog” syndrome is chaining. Besides suffering the isolation from his family, the chained dog suffers the added frustration of being unable to act out even the most basic dog behaviors of running and sniffing his own backyard. The small circle in which he can move about becomes hard-packed with dirt which carries the stench of animal waste even if the fecal matter is routinely cleared away. The odor draws flies and serves as an excellent breeding ground for parasites which can infect the dog.

Dogs chained for even a few weeks begin to show severe temperament disorders. The most common problem resulting from chaining is hyperactivity, particularly in young dogs. Many chained dogs will also begin to exhibit signs of aggression and fear biting. Aware that he is unable to escape any possible danger, the chained dog must result to displaying aggressive behavior as a means of self-defense. Dogs who are chained are quicker to bite, yet, ironically, can also display timid, fearful behavior when handled. These dogs are showing all the characteristic signs of social deprivation. If prolonged, such dogs literally become mentally ill.

Dogs offer people undying loyalty and unconditional love. In return, they ask for nothing more than a sense of belonging. The realities of modern life, as well as the dog's own needs, often require that dogs spend some part of the day in the backyard. Many of these dogs receive plenty of love and attention and are happy and healthy companions. Yet to banish a dog permanently to the backyard, while the rest of his “family” enjoy one another inside, is a betrayal of what should be a loving pact—and that is no way to treat man's best friend.

CHAINED DOGS AND EXTREME WEATHER



It is cruel to banish dogs to the backyard, chained or otherwise. During extreme weather, it is also deadly. Dogs have suffered heat stroke during high temperatures and have frozen to death in frigid ones. Additional provisions in a proposed law to “prohibit the keeping of dogs outside” when the temperature exceeds or falls below safe levels can and should also be added in those climates that warrant it. Moreover, prohibiting dogs from being kept outdoors alone between sunset and sunrise regardless of the weather can also prevent dogs from being permanently banished to the backyard.

MODEL ANTI-TETHERING LEGISLATION

SEC. 1 Policy

(a) In order to enhance the quality of life of citizens and dogs, the County Commission/City Council prohibits the tethering of a dog unless the owner or custodian is outside with the animal.

SEC. 2 Definitions

(a) Dog.—The term ‘dog’ shall mean a member of the species *Canis lupus familiaris*.

(b) Animal control.—The term ‘animal control’ means the municipal or county animal control agency or any other entity responsible for enforcing animal-related laws.

(c) Person.—The term ‘person’ means any individual, partnership, corporation, organiza-

tion, trade or professional association, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity, and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative thereof.

Sec. 3 (a) No person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain a dog, or cause a dog to be tethered, fastened, chained, tied, or restrained unless the owner or custodian is outside with the animal and the animal is in sight view.

(b) A person who violates this chapter is guilty of an infraction.

(1) An infraction under this chapter is punishable upon conviction by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) as

to each dog with respect to which a violation occurs.

(2) Each subsequent 24-hour period shall constitute a separate infraction.

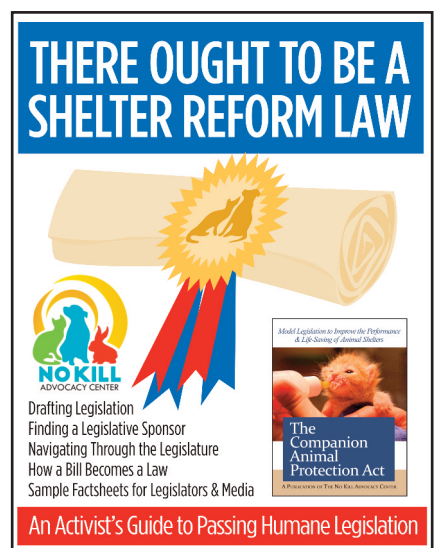
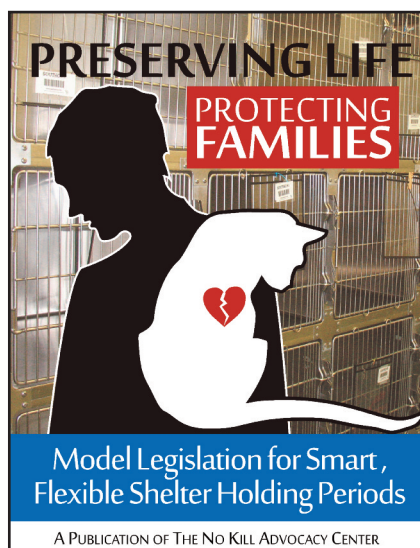
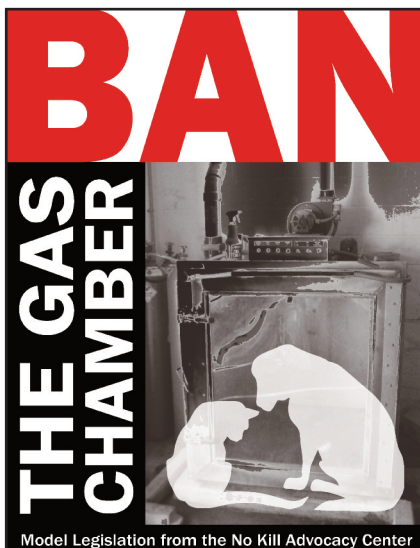
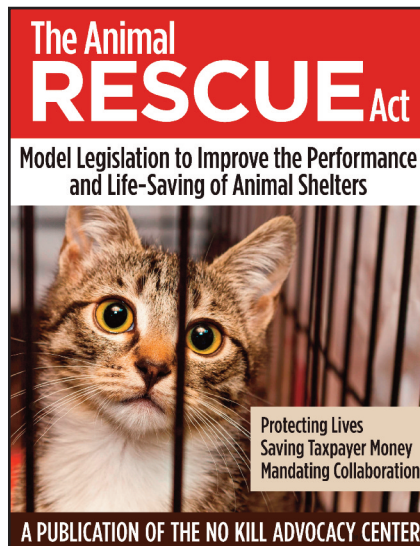
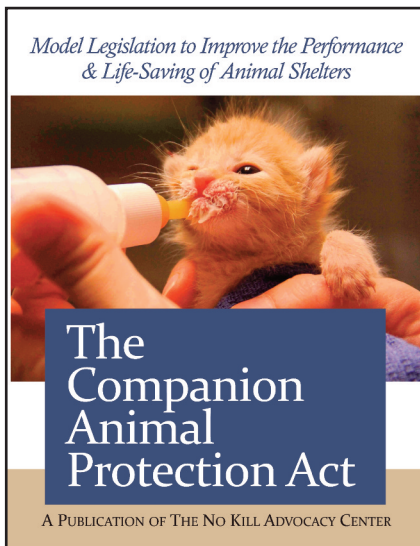
(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), animal control may issue a correction warning to a person who violates this chapter, requiring the owner to correct the violation, in lieu of an infraction, unless the violation endangers the health or safety of the animal, the animal has been wounded as a result of the violation, or a correction warning has previously been issued to the individual.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog with a hand-held leash.



Other Model Companion Animal Protection Laws

from the No Kill Advocacy Center



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