



## CONNECTICUT BILL SETS CONFINEMENT STANDARDS FOR DOGS

**\*\* HEARING SET FOR MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> \*\***

### **The Issue:**

A bill setting standards for tethering and caging has been introduced in Connecticut. Assembly Bill 274 defines an “unreasonable manner” to confine or tether a dog, and provides penalties for violators. **A hearing has been set for Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Joint Environment Committee (Room 1D, LOB at 10:30 a.m.).**

### **The Impact:**

The bill states that “any person who confines or tethers a dog in an unreasonable manner faces fines of \$100 for a first offense and for a second (and subsequent) offense fines of \$250 to \$500. Each day that a dog is confined or tethered in an unreasonable manner constitutes a separate offense.

A person **confines** a dog in an unreasonable manner if:

- For one dog, such person places such dog in an enclosure that consists of less than 100-square feet of space that is the primary location where such dog eats, drinks, sleeps and eliminates waste, or
- For two or more dogs, such person places two dogs in an enclosure that consists of less than 150- square feet of space, and less than 50 additional square feet of space for each additional dog over two dogs, that is the primary location where such dogs eat, drink, sleep and eliminate waste.

A person **tethers** a dog in an unreasonable manner if such person attaches an unattended dog to a stationary object, including, but not limited to, a tree, dog house or fence, or to a moveable device, including, but not limited to, a pulley or trolley, by any means other than a properly fitted collar and leash, harness or lightweight cable in a manner that:

- Obstructs such dog's access to food, water or shelter,
- Prevents such dog from lying, sitting or standing without such collar and leash, harness or lightweight cable becoming taut, or
- Results, or reasonably could result, in the injury, strangulation or entanglement of such dog;

A dog is unattended if such dog is not within the visual range of the owner of such dog or the person responsible for such dog, or if such owner or person is not on the subject premises.



EXCEPTIONS: the space requirements described above for a “confined” dog do not apply to:

- Any enclosure used to confine a dog that is six months of age or younger;
- Any kennel licensed under state law;
- Any commercial kennel, pet shop, training facility or grooming facility licensed pursuant to state law;
- Any facility utilized for the temporary boarding of any dog that is in need of a new owner;
- Any pound as defined by state law.

### **PIJAC Position:**

PIJAC supports establishment of humane standards in law. Tethering as a form of confinement may be humane if done appropriately. Appropriate space should be provided for dogs kept in a primary enclosure. However, since the size of dogs vary greatly by breed and individual, a single size requirement is not appropriate for all dogs.

### **Recommended Action:**

**Senate Bill 274 has been set for hearing before the Connecticut Joint Committee on Environment. The hearing is scheduled for March 8, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building.** Those concerned about this bill should provide their comments to the committee at that hearing, and should also contact individual committee members in advance of the hearing (see committee contact information on the next page). Connecticut residents may also easily contact their elected representatives through PIJAC’s Legislative Action Center on its website at [www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs](http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs).

The critical point to communicate to legislators regarding this bill is that **a one-size-fits-all standard is not appropriate for dogs**. Depending on the breed, one dog may be several times the size of another, meaning the standard imposed by this bill is excessive for some dogs and not adequate for others!

Contact PIJAC’s Michael Maddox via email at [michael@pijac.org](mailto:michael@pijac.org) or by phone at 202-452-1525 should you have questions about this bill or require additional information.

### **PIJAC Members! PIJAC Fans! Join US...**

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been protecting and promoting responsible pet ownership for nearly forty years. Follow our successes, events, and action alerts through Facebook and/or Twitter at PIJAC4pets. If you are not already a Member, please join us today by visiting [www.pijac.org/membership](http://www.pijac.org/membership). For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org) and [www.dontmesswithmypet.org](http://www.dontmesswithmypet.org). Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); [members@pijac.org](mailto:members@pijac.org).

**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**

**State of Connecticut  
 Joint Committee on Environment  
 Legislative Office Bldg., Room 3200  
 Hartford, CT 06106  
 860/240-0440**

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2010 CT S 274

**AUTHOR:** Joint  
Committee on  
Environment  
**VERSION:** Enacted - Final  
**VERSION** 06/02/2010  
**DATE:**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

*Substitute Senate Bill No. 274*

*Public Act No. 10-100*

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNREASONABLE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS.***

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

Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

(a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley by means of a: (1) Tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction, (2) tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting and tangling, unless the owner or keeper of such dog is in the presence of such dog, (3) coat hanger, choke collar, prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar, halter or device that is not specifically designed or properly fitted for the restraint of such dog, (4) tether that has weights attached or that contains metal chain links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or (5) tether that allows such dog to reach an object, including, but not limited to, a window sill, edge of a pool, fence, porch or terrace railing that poses a substantial risk of injury or strangulation to such dog if such dog jumps over such object, unless the owner or keeper of such dog is on the premises. The provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not be construed to apply to: (A) Any veterinary practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197 that tethers a dog in the course of such veterinary practice, (B) any exhibition, show, contest or other temporary event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of such dog is judged or examined, (C) any exhibition, class, training session or other temporary event in which such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of wildlife or in which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to hunt such species of wildlife, (D) the temporary tethering of a dog at any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or (E) the temporary tethering of a dog at a grooming facility in the course of grooming such dog.

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

(c) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be fined ~~not more than~~ one hundred dollars for the first offense, ~~not less than one two~~ hundred dollars ~~or more than two hundred fifty dollars~~ for a second offense, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for ~~any~~ a third or subsequent offense.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 22-354 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

(b) Any dog sold or offered for sale by a pet shop licensee in this state shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin identifying the name and address of the person, firm or corporation that bred such dog and of any person, firm or

corporation that sold such dog to such pet shop licensee. Such certificate shall be in a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Such information contained in the certificate of origin shall be posted ~~in a conspicuous manner not more than ten feet from the location where such dog is displayed for sale~~ on the sign described in section 22-344d and such information shall be visible to customers. A copy of such certificate shall be provided to the purchaser of such dog at the time of sale and shall be filed by such licensee with the Department of Agriculture not later than ~~two~~ seven days after such sale. No pet shop licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale from a breeder or other person, firm or corporation located outside of this state that is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency. Any pet shop licensee violating the provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both, for each violation. Each day a pet shop licensee is in violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offense.