

By Senator Taddeo

40-00675-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to tethering of domestic dogs and
3 cats; creating s. 828.132, F.S.; defining the term
4 "tether"; providing requirements for tethering
5 domestic dogs and cats; providing applicability;
6 providing penalties; providing for enforcement;
7 providing an effective date.

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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. Section 828.132, Florida Statutes, is created to
12 read:

13 828.132 Tethering of domestic dogs and cats.—

14 (1) As used in this section, the term "tether" means to tie
15 a domestic dog or domestic cat to a stationary or inanimate
16 object with a rope, chain, or other means to restrict, confine,
17 or restrain its movement.

18 (2) (a) A person may not tether a domestic dog or domestic
19 cat unless the person is physically present with and attending
20 to the dog or cat and the dog or cat remains visible to the
21 person at all times while tethered.

22 (b) A person may not tether a domestic dog or domestic cat
23 outdoors during severe weather, including, but not limited to,
24 extreme heat or cold, thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes,
25 tropical storms, or hurricanes.

26 (3) Paragraph (2) (a) does not apply to tethering a domestic
27 dog or domestic cat in a manner that does not jeopardize its
28 health, safety, or well-being when:

29 (a) Attending, or participating in, a legal, organized

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30 public event in which the dog or cat and the person are
31 permitted attendees or participants;

32 (b) Actively engaging in conduct that is directly related
33 to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock or
34 related to the business of cultivating agricultural products and
35 tethering is reasonably necessary for its safety;

36 (c) Being treated by a veterinarian or serviced by a
37 groomer;

38 (d) Being trained for or actively serving in a law
39 enforcement capacity;

40 (e) Being lawfully used to actively hunt a species of
41 wildlife in the state during the hunting season for that species
42 of wildlife;

43 (f) Being cared for as part of a rescue operation during a
44 natural or manmade disaster;

45 (g) Temporarily tethered while being kept in a bona fide
46 humane shelter or at a licensed commercial boarding facility; or

47 (h) Tethered in accordance with the regulations of a
48 camping or recreational area.

49 (4) A person who tethers a domestic dog or domestic cat in
50 violation of this section commits a noncriminal violation as
51 defined in s. 775.08(3) and is subject to the following
52 penalties:

53 (a) For a first offense, a written warning and notice to
54 comply within 30 calendar days.

55 (b) For a second offense, a fine of \$250.

56 (c) For a third and every subsequent offense, a fine of
57 \$500.

58 (5) This section shall be enforced pursuant to s. 828.073.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.