

Chained Dogs in Georgia & Anti-tethering Ordinances

By Claudine Wilkins, Founder of Animal Law Source™ & The Animal Protection Society, Copyright 2019, All rights reserved

A chain dog presents a public safety issue and is a dangerous situation to humans, especially children (see chained dog attacks in Georgia, click [here](#)). Dog bite victims, animal control officers, law enforcement, prosecutors, county commissioners and city councilmen should be educated on public safety issues related to tethering dogs. Many cities and counties in Georgia recognize concerns and have passed local, anti-tethering ordinances.

Georgia Counties with Anti-tethering Ordinances*:

Athens-Clarke, Chatham, Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Liberty, Houston, Hall, Forsyth and Rockdale Counties

Georgia Cities with Anti-tethering Ordinances*:

Bainbridge (Decatur County), Blakely (Early County), Gainesville (Hall County), Hinesville, (Liberty County), Macon (Bibb County), Toccoa (Stephens County), Roswell (Fulton County)

*Last updated in 2018, more laws may have been passed since update. Some bans may or may not include full bans on unsupervised tethering.

Sample Ordinance: A sample ordinance can be found [here](#).

Anti-tethering laws are in place to:

- Decrease dog attacks – especially those involved with children and postal, letter carriers and meter readers. After a family member, the top two victims of dog attacks are children and postal workers.
- Decrease dog barking – noise complaints resulting from chained dogs overwhelms dispatchers, animal control, law enforcement, and take up valuable human resources.
- Reduce the threat to public safety - chained dogs are far more likely to be aggressive.
- Restricting the tethering of dogs and upgrading care standards will give animal control and law enforcement officers an important opportunity to educate dog owners on proper care, and provide them with more certain, consistent, and enforceable minimum care standards.

Resources on how to get an anti-tethering law passed in your local community are available. Contact info@animallawsource.org



American Veterinary Medical Association, May 15, 2003: "Confine your dog in a fenced yard or dog run when it is not in the house. Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior."

The United States Department of Agriculture, Federal Register - July, 1996: "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 a 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."

Federal Regulations, Chapter 9 Code of F.R. Chapter 1, Sec. 3.6 Primary enclosures: o (c) (4) Prohibited means of primary enclosure. Permanent tethering of dogs is prohibited for use as primary enclosure. Temporary tethering of dogs is prohibited for use as primary enclosure unless approval is obtained from APHIS.

More statistic can be found at: www.dogsdeservebetter.org and www.unchainyourdog.org and [dogbite law](http://dogbite.law)

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Thank you,

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