

HB149 INTRODUCED



1 HB149
2 9N3LMBB-1
3 By Representatives Ensler, Lands
4 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, animals are afforded protections regarding their care in this state.

This bill would require certain methods be used to tether or confine a dog.

This bill would require certain care be provided to dogs kept outside using one of these methods.

This bill would exempt certain persons and activities from these requirements.

This bill would also provide a criminal penalty for tethering or confining a dog in violation of this act.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to dogs; to provide methods for tethering and confining dogs; to provide certain standards of care for dogs kept outside; to exempt certain persons and activities; and to provide criminal penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Dog Tethering and Outdoor Shelter Act.



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29 Section 2. (a) A person may not leave or keep a dog
30 chained or tethered to a stationary object, including a
31 structure, dog house, pole, or tree, or otherwise confined
32 unless in accordance with one of the following:

33 (1)a. Confined in a secure enclosure that has adequate
34 space for exercise depending upon the age, size, breed, and
35 weight of the dog.

36 b. The secure enclosure shall be constructed with chain
37 link or other sturdy material, with all four sides enclosed
38 and with a minimum height sufficient to confine the dog.

39 (2) Confined in a fully fenced, including
40 electronically fenced, or otherwise securely enclosed yard
41 where the dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave
42 the yard.

43 (3) Tethered to a trolley system that satisfies all of
44 the following:

45 a. The tether is designed for dogs.

46 b. The tether does not weigh more than one-eighth of
47 the dog's body weight.

48 c. The trolley system does not allow the dog to leave
49 the property of the owner or keeper.

50 d. Only one dog is tethered to each cable run.

51 e. The tether is attached to a properly fitting collar
52 or harness worn by the dog, with adequate space between the
53 collar and the dog's throat.

54 f. The tether has a swivel on both ends to minimize
55 tangling of the collar.

56 g. The tether and cable run are both at least 10 feet



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57 in length and the cable run is secured at least four feet, but
58 not more than seven feet, above ground level.

59 h. The length of the tether from the cable run to the
60 dog's collar or harness allows continuous access at all times
61 to clean water, adequate food, and shelter as described in
62 subsection (d).

63 i. The trolley system is of an appropriate
64 configuration to confine the dog to the property of the owner
65 or keeper, prevent the cable run and tether from extending
66 over an object or edge that could result in injury or
67 strangulation of the dog, and prevent the cable run and tether
68 from becoming tangled with other objects or animals.

69 (b) Subsection (a) shall not be construed to apply to
70 any of the following:

71 (1) A licensed veterinary practice that tethers or
72 confines a dog in the course of its practice.

73 (2) A boarding kennel or public or private animal
74 shelter with secure enclosures for the temporary boarding or
75 housing of dogs.

76 (3) An exhibition, trial, show, contest, or other
77 temporary event in which skill, breeding, or stamina of a dog
78 is judged or examined.

79 (4) A dog that is used or receives training in a lawful
80 manner to hunt wildlife.

81 (5) The temporary tethering of a dog at any campsite or
82 recreation area.

83 (6) A licensed grooming shop or facility during the
84 grooming of a dog.



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85 (7) Any emergency circumstance during which tethering a
86 dog is necessary, but not exceeding a period of three hours.

87 (c) A logging chain or other line or device not
88 designed or intended for tethering a dog, or a choke collar or
89 pinch collar, may not be used temporarily or indefinitely to
90 tether a dog.

91 (d) In addition to any other requirement, a person
92 leaving or keeping a dog confined outside shall provide the
93 dog with access to clean water, adequate food, and shelter
94 that complies with all of the following:

95 (1) Allows the dog to remain dry and protected from the
96 elements, including providing shade for the dog and containing
97 adequate bedding for cold weather when necessary.

98 (2) Has a roof, four walls, and a solid floor.

99 (3) Is constructed or manufactured of durable materials
100 and provides adequate ventilation.

101 (4) Has adequate space for the dog to stand up, turn
102 around, and extend its limbs.

103 (5) Is free from accumulated waste, standing water, and
104 debris.

105 (6) Allows the dog unlimited access.

106 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do
107 any of the following:

108 (1) Subject a dog actively engaged in conduct that is
109 directly related to the business of shepherding or herding
110 livestock or cultivating agricultural products to the outdoor
111 confinement limitations provided by this section.

112 (2) Prohibit a person from walking a dog on a handheld



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113 leash.

114 (3) Prohibit a person from tethering a dog near a place
115 of business while the person is inside or otherwise
116 interacting with the business, subject to the following
117 conditions:

118 a. The dog is tethered for a reasonable amount of time.

119 b. The dog is tethered in a reasonable location near
120 the place of business.

121 (f) A person who violates this section shall be guilty
122 of a Class B misdemeanor.

123 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
124 1, 2025.