



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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; to provide criminal penalties for violations; and to provide for political subdivisions' agent to inspect violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ADEQUATE FOOD. Food that is sufficient in amount and is appropriate for the particular type of dog to prevent starvation or a significant risk to the dog's health from lack of food. the term includes palatable, uncontaminated, and nutritionally appropriate food that is fed according to species requirements or is fed as directed by a veterinarian.

(2) ADEQUATE WATER. Water that is sufficient in amount and is appropriate for the particular type of dog to prevent dehydration or a significant risk to the dog's health from



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

29 lack of water. The term includes potable water offered to dogs
30 at suitable intervals according to the species requirements,
31 or as directed by a veterinarian.

32 (3) ADEQUATE SHELTER. A structure that provides a dog
33 with protections from inclement weather and is of a dimension
34 that allows the dog to stand erect, sit, turn around, and lie
35 down in a normal position while in the structure.

36 (4) PROPERLY FITTED. When worn by a dog, all of the
37 following apply:

38 a. Appropriately sized for a dog based on the dog's
39 measurement and body weight.

40 b. Does not choke a dog or impede the dog's normal
41 breathing or swallowing.

42 c. Does not cause pain or injury to a dog.

43 (c) A person may not leave or keep a dog chained or
44 tethered to a stationary object, including a structure,
45 doghouse, pole, or tree, or otherwise confined unless in
46 accordance with one of the following:

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

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

53 (2) Confined in a fully fenced, including
54 electronically fenced, or otherwise securely enclosed yard
55 where the dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave
56 the yard.



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

57 (3) Tethered to a trolley system that satisfies all of
58 the following:

59 a. The tether is designed for dogs.

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

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

64 d. Only one dog is tethered to each cable attached to
65 the trolley system.

66 e. The tether is attached to a properly fitted collar
67 or harness worn by the dog.

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

70 g. The tether and cable run are both at least 10 feet
71 in length and the cable run is secured at least four feet, but
72 not more than seven feet, above ground level.

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

77 i. The trolley system is of an appropriate
78 configuration to confine the dog to the property of the owner
79 or keeper, prevent the cable run and tether from extending
80 over an object or edge that could result in injury or
81 strangulation of the dog, and prevent the cable run and tether
82 from becoming tangled with other objects or animals.

83 (d) Subsection (c) does not apply to any of the
84 following:



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

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

87 (2) A boarding kennel or public or private animal
88 shelter with secure enclosures for the temporary boarding or
89 housing of dogs.

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

93 (4) A dog that is used for obedience purposes or
94 receives training in a lawful manner to hunt or retrieve
95 wildlife.

96 (5) The temporary tethering of a dog at any campsite or
97 recreation area or home.

98 (6) A licensed grooming shop or facility during the
99 grooming of a dog.

100 (7) Any emergency circumstance during which tethering a
101 dog is necessary, but not exceeding a reasonable amount of
102 time with respect to the weather.

103 (e) A logging chain or other line or device not
104 designed or intended for tethering a dog, or a choke collar or
105 pinch collar, may not be used to indefinitely tether a dog.

106 (f) In addition to any other requirement, a person
107 leaving or keeping a dog confined outside shall provide the
108 dog with access to shelter that complies with all of the
109 following:

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



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

113 (2) Has a roof, walls, and a solid floor to provide
114 adequate shelter.

115 (3) Is constructed or manufactured of durable materials
116 and provides adequate ventilation.

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

119 (5) Is free from accumulated waste, standing water, and
120 debris.

121 (6) Allows the dog unlimited access.

122 (g) Nothing in this section shall apply to any of the
123 following:

124 (1) A dog whose purpose is or that is receiving
125 training in conduct that is directly related to the business
126 of shepherding or herding livestock, cultivating agricultural
127 products, hunting, or retrieving.

128 (2) A person walking a dog on a leash.

129 (3) A person tethering a dog near a place of business
130 while the person is inside or otherwise interacting with the
131 business, subject to the following conditions:

132 a. The dog is tethered for a reasonable amount of time
133 with respect to the weather.

134 b. The dog is tethered in a reasonable location near
135 the place of business.

136 (h) A person who violates this section shall be guilty
137 of a Class A misdemeanor.

138 (i) (1) The governing body of a county or municipality
139 may appoint one or more animal control officers to investigate
140 alleged violations of this section. An officer shall not be



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB149**

141 required to be a certified law enforcement officer. Upon
142 having probable cause that a violation of this section has
143 occurred, an officer may do either of the following:

144 **a.** Remove a dog from its present location.

145 **b.** Order the owner of a dog to provide certain care to
146 the dog at the owner's expense without the removal of the dog
147 from its present location.

148 **(2) The removal of a dog or the issuance of an order to**
149 **provide care to a dog shall be subject to the hearing and**
150 **disposition requirements and procedures provided in Sections**
151 **13A-11-244 and 13A-11-245, Code of Alabama 1975.**

152 (j) Neither a county or municipality, nor an animal
153 control officer, acting in good faith, may be liable for any
154 actions taken under this section, regardless of whether a dog
155 that is removed is returned to its owner.

156 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
157 1, 2025.