

LEON COUNTY

DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL



Leon County Ordinance **Sec. 4-37. - *Humane Care Required.***

- (a) No owner shall fail to provide his or her animal with sufficient and wholesome food, proper shelter and protection from the weather at all times, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, sufficient exercise space, and humane care and treatment, including clean, sanitary, safe, humane conditions. The owner of an animal shall provide clean water for the animal in a sufficient quantity to maintain the animal in a healthy condition. Water shall be provided at all times in a stable container which is sized appropriately for the animal's species and breed.
- (b) No person shall overload, overwork, torture, or torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, beat, mutilate or inhumanely kill, or otherwise abuse any animal or cause or permit the same to be done.
- (c) No person shall abandon any animal by forsaking the animal entirely or by neglecting or refusing to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of the animal.
- (d) Any person who, as the operator of a motor vehicle, strikes a domesticated animal, should immediately report such incident to any law enforcement agency or to the division of animal control.
- (e) Tethering. No person shall under any circumstances tether or otherwise confine any animal in a manner that is injurious to the animal's health, safety and well-being. Proper and humane tethering includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - (1) Collars used to attach an animal should be comfortable and properly fitted. The use of choker collar or chain is prohibited.
 - (2) The tether shall not extend over an object or edge in such a manner that could result in strangulation of or injury to the animal. The length of the tether must be a minimum of six feet, or at least three times the length of the animal measured from the animal's nose to the base of its tail, whichever is greater, unless the tether is being used to secure the animal to

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the bed of an open vehicle or pick-up truck. The tether must have a swivel at both ends to prevent entanglement. Restraints should allow the animal to move about and lie down comfortably. Pulley, running line, or trolley systems must be at least 15 feet in length and less than seven feet above the ground.

- (3) Tethering of an animal is prohibited during severe weather events and natural disasters such as flood, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes or blizzard.
 - (4) No animal shall be confined to a vacant or abandoned structure or vacant property.
 - (5) The weight or gauge of any tether or chain shall not be more than one-eighth of the animal's weight. Logging chains and vehicle tow chains are prohibited. No person shall add any weight to an animal collar, harness, chain or tether.
 - (6) The animal tethered must be at least six months of age. Puppies and kittens shall not be tethered.
 - (7) The animal tethered must not be sick or injured.
- (f) Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be in violation of this section:
- (1) Baiting, breeding, training, transporting, selling, owning, possessing, or using any wild or domestic animal for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting;
 - (2) Betting or wagering any money or other valuable consideration on the fighting or baiting of animals;
 - (3) Attending the fighting or baiting of animals;
 - (4) Owning, possessing, or selling equipment for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting;
 - (5) Providing or allowing property for use in the housing, training, transport, fighting or baiting of animals.