



CITY OF FORT PIERCE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE DIVISIONS CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL

Protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community

MARGARET M. ARRAIZ, CODE COMPLIANCE MANAGER

TO: The Honorable Mayor Hudson and City Commissioners
THROUGH: Nicholas Mimms, City Manager
FROM: Peggy Arraiz, Code Compliance Manager
RE: Tethering of Dogs
DATE: December 7, 2015

This past summer, a tragic incident occurred that resulted in the death of an 8 month old puppy named Baby. Baby had been tied up in her backyard (tethered) when she was attacked by a swarm of yellow jackets. The swarm was so severe that neither the owner nor the responding officers could intervene for almost two hours. Because the puppy was tied up, she had no means of escape and ultimately suffered severe trauma that resulted in her death.

The issue of tethering has become a "hot" topic recently, with both Martin and St. Lucie Counties adopting ordinances that prohibit residents from tethering their dogs outside unattended as well as adopting ordinances that highly regulate the conditions in which an animal (cat, dog, guinea pigs, etc.) may be kept when outdoors.

Mr. Charlie Crowe was deeply affected by the incident with Baby and has asked that the Commission consider amending our ordinance to prohibit tethering of dogs, similar to those made by our neighboring communities.

FORT PIERCE

- Allows tethering with restrictions as to length of tether and prohibits prong and choke collars.

PORT ST. LUCIE:

- Allows tethering with restrictions as to length of tether, placement and type. It prohibits prong or choke collars.
- Requires animals to be brought inside if the heat index reaches 100° F or a wind chill factor of 35° F.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- Prohibits animals under 6 months and over 7 years from being tethered at all.
- Prohibits unattended tethering.
- Provides restrictions for tethering as to length of tether, placement and type.
- Requires animals to be brought inside if the temperature reaches 85° with a heat index of 100° or below 40° with a wind chill factor of 35°.
- Prohibits keeping any animal outside in any type of crate (metal, wood, plastic, etc.)

MARTIN COUNTY

- Prohibits animals under 6 months and over 7 years from being tethered at all.
- Prohibits unattended tethering.
- Provides restrictions for tethering as to length of tether, placement and type.
- Requires animals to be brought inside under weather conditions which endanger the health, safety or welfare of the animal.
- Prohibits keeping any animal outside in any type of crate (metal, wood, plastic, etc.)