



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 and City Commissioners
CC: Nicholas Mimms, City Manager
FROM: Peggy Arraiz, Code Compliance Manager
RE: Anti-Tethering Amendment
DATE: May 4, 2016

In preparing to amend our ordinance to include rules regarding anti-tethering and restricting outdoor dogs, staff reviewed the ordinances of Martin County, St. Lucie County and Port St. Lucie. It should be noted that both Martin County and St. Lucie County recently adopted substantial ordinance amendments that include anti-tethering regulations.

During this review, it was noted that our current ordinance was lacking in several areas and it would be prudent to conduct a full review and amendment in addition to including restrictions for outdoor animals. Comments are provided in the red-line version indicating the jurisdiction from which the item was copied. Below is a summary of the relevant amendments.

- Definitions
 - In addition to adding multiple definitions, the definition for a shelter and its requirements were deleted. The requirements for a sufficient shelter were moved to Sec. 4-22.
- Sec. 4-22 - Restraint of Animals
 - Utilized both Martin & St. Lucie County ordinances.
 - May be kept in a shelter if in a fenced area only - cannot be chained or tethered.
 - Shelter requirements are upgraded from current ordinance.
 - Fenced area requirements are established.
 - Tethering is only permitted if a responsible person is present.
 - Tethering requirements are upgraded from current ordinance.
 - Prohibits any dog from being kept outdoors during extreme weather conditions.
- Sec. 4-88 - Duties and powers; immunity from prosecution
 - Provides the authority for animal control officers to enter onto private property to investigate animal complaints - with the exception of fenced in areas, dwelling houses or structures.
 - Removes the exception of fenced in areas if rabies is suspected or if an animal is in need of immediate medical attention.
- Sec. 4-89 - Interference with animal control officer prohibited
 - Is included in all three other jurisdictions.
 - Makes it a violation for an unauthorized person to release an animal from a trap.