

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2721

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

---

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BURNETT.

5525H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 578, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining, with a penalty provision.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 578, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 578.019, to read as follows:

**578.019. 1. Except as provided under subsection 2 of this section, a person  
2 commits the offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining if the person:**

3 **(1) Keeps the dog tethered or chained while unsupervised by a competent  
4 individual physically present on the property with the dog;**

5 **(2) Keeps a dog tethered, chained, or otherwise restricted by a leash, rope, chain,  
6 or other similar mechanism with which the dog does not have shelter from extreme  
7 natural elements, adequate food, or access to unfrozen potable water;**

8 **(3) Keeps a dog tethered or chained in an area that is unsafe or insanitary or not  
9 free from obstruction that may cause entanglement or injury;**

10 **(4) Keeps the dog tethered or chained for a maximum of thirty minutes at a time,  
11 not to exceed a total of three hours in a twenty-four-hour period; or**

12 **(5) Inappropriately tethers or chains the dog with a tether or chain that is not  
13 proportionate to the size of the dog, that is less than fifteen feet in length, that does not  
14 have a swivel on both ends of the tether or chain, and that is not attached to the dog by a  
15 properly fitting harness or collar.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16           **2. A person commits the offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining under any**  
17 **circumstance if the person tethers or chains an unaltered dog or a dog under six months**  
18 **of age.**

19           **3. The offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining is a class B misdemeanor.**

20           **4. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person restraining a dog:**

21           **(1) Under the requirements of a camping or recreational area; or**

22           **(2) Temporarily during the act of hunting.**

23           **5. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

24           **(1) "Animal control", the municipal or county animal control agency or other**  
25 **entity responsible for enforcing animal-related laws;**

26           **(2) "Tethering or chaining", the practice of tying, fastening, or restraining a dog**  
27 **to a stationary object as a means of keeping the dog under control. The term "tethering**  
28 **or chaining" does not apply to a dog being walked on a leash;**

29           **(3) "Unaltered dog", a dog that is six months of age or older and is not spayed or**  
30 **neutered.**

31           **6. A law enforcement or an animal control officer, if the animal control officer**  
32 **has the authority, may make an arrest for a violation under this section.**

33           **7. An animal control officer may immediately seize a dog if the officer has**  
34 **reasonable grounds to believe that prompt action is required to protect the health and**  
35 **safety of the dog or others.**

✓