

Dog Licenses

If you live in the city and own a dog, you are required to obtain a dog license for each dog, pursuant to applicable state law and City Code Section 15-2-8.

The owner of the animal is responsible for presenting a valid rabies certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian for each dog.

Anytime the dog is off its owner's property, the tag must be on the dog's collar.

To obtain a dog license, residents can visit the city Treasurer's Office at City Hall, 409 S. Main St.

Licenses can also be obtained at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham SPCA, 2170 Old Furnace Road.

Additional information is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/dog-license.



Harrisonburg Animal Care and Control

Public Safety Building
101 N. Main St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Phone: 540-437-2670
Fax: 540-437-2614
E-mail: HACC@HarrisonburgVA.gov

 [www.facebook.com/
Harrisonburg.Animal.Control](https://www.facebook.com/Harrisonburg.Animal.Control)

City of Harrisonburg

A Citizen's Guide to the new Tethering Ordinance



Effective June 1, 2016

INFORM. EDUCATE. ENFORCE.

FACTS: Tethering Ordinance ***City Code Section 15-2-1***

This ordinance specifically states that dog owners may not tether an unattended dog for more than one hour continuously or four hours cumulatively within a 24-hour period.

The tether must be at least three times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail.

Only dogs that meet the following conditions shall be tethered:

1. The dog is six months of age or older;
2. If female, the dog is sterilized or not in estrus;
3. The tether should not be too heavy and not exceed 10% of the dog's body weight; and
4. Only one dog should be attached to a single tether.

This ordinance will be effective June 1, 2016.

Welfare of the Dog

Dog owners should ensure that the buildings, pens, or other areas where animals are kept are maintained in a sanitary, healthy condition and that adequate space is provided.

To view the complete tethering ordinance, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/code.



DEFINITIONS

Tether

When used as a noun, any device, including but not limited to a chain, leash, cable, or tie out, attached to a stationary point or object, trolley or run used to contain or restrain a dog. When used as a verb, tether shall mean to attach a dog to such a device.

Unattended

Leaving your dog outside while you are not outside, in the vicinity of, or in direct sight of your dog.

Adequate Space

Sufficient space to allow each animal to easily stand, sit, lie, turn about, and make all other normal body movements in a comfortable, normal position for the animal and interact safely with other animals in the enclosure.

Penalty

1 st Violation	Class 4 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$250
2 nd Violation (<i>within 1 year of the 1st violation</i>)	Class 3 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500
All Subsequent Violations (<i>within 1 year of the 1st violation</i>)	Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a penalty of up to 6 months in jail

ALTERNATIVES TO TETHERING

Bring Your Dog Indoors

Whatever the breed, your dog wants to be part of your family. Bringing your dog inside will not only make your dog happier and increase your bond with your dog, it will more than likely make you happier too.

Yard Fencing

Installing a fence will prevent your dog from roaming and protect him/her from predators. Consider installing a 45-degree inward fence extension if your dog tends to jump over the fence. To help prevent your dog from digging under the fence, bury chicken wire one foot underground, where the fence meets the ground.

Dog Run

Dog runs are fenced-in areas for dogs to exercise unleashed. It can be constructed from materials available locally or purchased ready to be assembled. As with fences, your dog will need a dog house to protect it from the elements.

Electronic Fencing

There are many variations of pet-safe electronic fencing including wireless, underground, and even indoor electronic fencing, which can help prevent a dog from escaping through an open door.

Information about the care and welfare of domestic animals and related city ordinances is available at:
www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/animal-care-and-control