

**AN ORDINANCE
NO.**

An ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Columbus Code so as to establish and clarify various standards for the tethering and restraint of dogs in Columbus, Georgia; and for other purposes .

SECTION 1 .

Section 5-7.2 of the Columbus Code is hereby amended by striking paragraph (c) in its entirety and replacing it with a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:

- “(c) It shall be unlawful to tether an animal outdoors, except when all of the following conditions are met:
- (1) No animal shall be tethered and left unattended for more than 4 consecutive hours in a 24-hour period. However, for up to the 4-hour maximum an animal may be on an approved tethering system as outlined in this section provided that the owner or caregiver must monitor the animal at least once each hour either through personal observation or by means of a video camera ;
 - (2) No animal shall be tethered except on a three-point pulley system;
 - (3) Only one animal may be attached to each tethering system;
 - (4) Any tethering device used to tether an animal shall not allow the animal to cross over the owner's property line;
 - (5) Tethers must be made of commercial approved leash or tethering material which cannot be chewed by the animal and together with all items that have their weight borne by the dog, shall not weigh more than five percent of the body weight of the animal; ropes and chains are not considered appropriate tethering material;
 - (6) The tether must be at least five times the body length of the dog and mounted no more than seven feet above the ground level;
 - (7) The length of the tether from the running cable line or pulley system to the animal's harness should allow access to the maximum available exercise area allow the animal free access to food, water, and shelter;
 - (8) The animal must be attached to the tether by a properly fitted harness or collar with enough room between the collar and the animal's throat through which two fingers may fit. Choke collars and pinch collars are prohibited for the purpose of tethering an animal;
 - (9) The tethering system must be a sufficient distance from any other objects or animals to prohibit the tangling of the cable, to prohibit the cable from extending over an object or an edge that could result in injury or strangulation of the animal and be of sufficient distance from any fence so as to prohibit the animal from having access to the fence;
 - (10) The dog shall be tethered in a location that allows access to drinking water at all times.
 - (11) The animal is not tethered outside during periods of local extreme weather which shall include but not be limited to an excessive heat warnings issued by the National Weather Service, temperatures at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius), thunderstorms, tornados, tropical storms, or hurricanes;

- (12) The animal is at least six months of age;
- (13) The animal is not sick or injured;
- (14) The tethering system may not restrict the dog's range of movement to less than ten (10) feet, after taking into consideration the length of the tether, the height at which the tether is attached to a thing, any tangling, wrapping, or other shortening of the useful length of the tether, any obstacles, and any other circumstances reducing the animal's range of movement.
- (14))Tethering the dog in a way that the tether can become tangled or so that the dog can reach an object (including, but not limited to, a railing or fence) or edge that could result in injury to the dog, whether or not such injury in fact occurs;.and
- (15) Animals transported in the rear of open vehicles shall be placed in a crate appropriate to the animal's weight which crate shall be anchored securely from to prevent it from being thrown from the vehicle."

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed as of its effective date.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the ____ day of _____, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor