



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref. CTS 16099/24

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12 September 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2024 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 4067-24 on 20 March 2024 - Prohibit unattended chaining of dogs already banned in other countries with proof showing positive results for dogs – less dog bites.

I note the petition requests to amend the provisions of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement/tethering of a dog. I thank the petitioners for raising this issue and acknowledge the ongoing interest of the community in this matter. I note that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) responded to petitions in March 2024 (3949-23), August 2022 (3744-22), March 2022 (3686-22), and May 2021 (3531-21) which made identical requests.


The Queensland Government is committed to providing standards and legislation which protect the welfare of all animals in Queensland, and which meet community expectations.

On 12 December 2022, amendments to the Act commenced strengthening the framework of the Act, introducing new penalties and enhancing inspectors' powers. Tethering and other types of confinement of dogs is adequately covered under Section 18 of the Act which provides that a person is cruel to an animal if they confine it in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare.

DAF recently developed a factsheet outlining appropriate tethering of animals in accordance with the Act. A copy of this factsheet is enclosed with this letter. Treating inappropriate tethering and confinement under Section 18 reflects community views about cruelty. Any offences relating to tethering carry a maximum penalty of 2000 penalty units or three years imprisonment.

If you require further information, please contact Mr Dan McIntyre in my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities



Tethering of animals

Tethering is a way to keep an animal in a desired area by securing it to an anchor point.

Tethering puts animals at risk of injury, stress and death. It should only be used to confine animals temporarily.

Tethered animals may be:

- unable to escape predators
- unable to seek shelter from climatic extremes
- unable to exercise
- isolated from their companions
- exposed to environmental hazards, such as sun and rain.

When is tethering appropriate?

Tethering may be necessary in the short term to:

- prevent an animal from straying (e.g. a dog)
- allow livestock to graze an unfenced pasture
- display animals (e.g. at an agricultural show).



When tethering an animal, you must make sure it:



has safe living conditions and protection from weather and entanglements



can access clean water and suitable food



can display normal behaviours (e.g. play, exercise or grazing).

Exercise

Animals should be taken off the tether and exercised at least daily.

Exercise should be appropriate to the species, age, health, environment, working status and breed of the individual animal.



SERIOUS PENALTIES APPLY

Sections 17 and 18 of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* make it an offence to be cruel or fail to meet your duty of care to an animal.

Tethering an animal appropriately



The tethering area

Should:

- ✓ be reasonably flat
- ✓ be clear of obstructions that may cause the tether to become entangled or cause injury to the animal
- ✓ include access to water, food and physical shelter at all times.

Should not be:

- ✗ on a steep slope
- ✗ rocky
- ✗ waterlogged or prone to flooding
- ✗ across a footpath or near a road the animal could access.

Collars and halters

An appropriate collar or halter should be fitted to the animal. Tethering by the leg or foot is unacceptable.

Collars and halters should be:

- a fixed size to prevent loosening or tightening
- made of suitable material to prevent discomfort or injury
- checked regularly and well maintained.

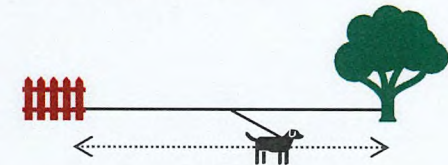
Methods of tethering

Fixed tether



- The animal is anchored to one spot using a spike or stake driven to ground level.
- The animal should be able to move 360 degrees freely without being entangled.

Running tether



- The animal can move along a wire anchored at two ends.
- Stops at each end should prevent the animal from becoming entangled.

Know your obligations

Under Queensland's *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, a person is **cruel** to an animal if they confine it (including by tethering) in way that is inappropriate for its welfare.

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For more information contact Biosecurity Queensland

- 13 25 23
- daf.qld.gov.au

