



The Hon Tony Perrett MP
Minister for Primary Industries

Our ref: CTS 07348/25

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28 April 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Neil.Laurie@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2025 regarding the petition as tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 1 April 2025 (4192-24) – *Stop unattended chaining of dogs*. I note the petition requests to amend the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* to prohibit prolonged unsupervised confinement/tethering of a dog.

The Queensland Government is committed to setting and enforcing high standards and legislation that safeguard the welfare of all animals in Queensland. 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. The maximum penalty for an individual convicted of cruelty to animals is \$322 600 or three years imprisonment under the Act.

If someone has concerns about the welfare of an animal, they should contact the Department of Primary Industries' Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. Where possible, the Customer Service Centre will request the following information:

- the name, address and a contact phone number of the caller
- the address where the animals are located
- the details of the concern, such as the type and number of animals, the problem with the animals and the condition of the animals
- the name, address and phone number of the animal's owner, if known

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

TONY PERRETT MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Member for Gympie

Enc: Factsheet - Tethering of animals



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

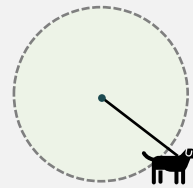
An appropriate collar or halter should be fitted to the animal. Tethering by the leg or foot is unacceptable.

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.

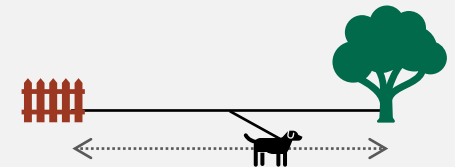
Methods of tethering

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.

03/23 #17907525



For more information contact Biosecurity Queensland

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

