



BUNDLE & SAVE

UP TO 25%

CLICK HERE FOR A FREE QUOTE!

DARCY TERRY
Newport News



[OBITS](#) [APARTMENTS](#) [HOME DELIVERY](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [PLACE AN AD](#)
[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [HRMILITARY](#) [SAVVY SHOPPER](#) [OPINION](#) [LIFE](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [MARKET](#) [YOUR STUFF](#)
[GLOUCESTER](#) [HAMPTON](#) [ISLE OF WIGHT](#) [NEWPORT NEWS](#) [SOUTHSIDE](#) [WILLIAMSBURG](#) [YORK](#) [BUSINESS](#) [CRIME](#) [POLITICS](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [SPACE](#)
[Home](#) > [Collections](#) > [Hampton](#)

Hampton revisiting animal tethering proposal tonight

PETA began lobbying for law in December

July 11, 2012 | By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com | 757-247-2827 | By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com | 757-247-2827

HAMPTON — Whether you own a mixed breed mutt or a purebred Pyrenean shepherd, residents here may soon find they can no longer leave their dogs chained and unattended outside for extended periods.

The City Council here is scheduled to act on an ordinance Wednesday that would restrict when animals can be tethered or chained in their owner's yard. While no specific reference is made to dogs, the measure is rooted in a lobbying effort by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to tighten restrictions on dog owners.

Ads By Google

[Pet Stop Pet Fence System](#)

Invisible Fence® Compatible Warrantied! - 757-417-0222

www.dogfencevirginia.com

[Play For Animal Shelters](#)

Play Our Game Here & Help An Animal Shelter In Your Area Today!

www.JoyfulPetMoments.com

[PETA's Dirty Secret](#)

PETA has a dirty secret. Get the truth here.

PetaKillsAnimals.com

If approved, tethering animals to trees, fences or other structures will be prohibited unless a strict set of guidelines are followed.

Animal owners would need to obtain a \$25 permit to tether their pets and are prohibited from leaving dogs tethered outside overnight, regardless of the permit.

Animal Control officers will visit applicants' homes to make sure adequate food, water, shelter, room to move, and necessary equipment are available before permits are issued, according to a city news release on the issue. Pet owners will need to renew the permit annually.

Violating the regulations could result in misdemeanor charges placed by Animal Control officers — with the equivalent punishment of public intoxication or trespassing on a railroad track — against offenders.

"While not a bad idea on its face, it will be complicated and it will increase the work load of Animal Control," said Daphna Nachminovitch, vice president of PETA's Cruelty Investigations Department.

Nachminovitch said any law reducing the number of tethered dogs will ultimately reduce animal cruelty complaints and dog bites. Forcing pet owners to obtain a permit, however, will become a burden on city staff, she said.

"It could be written so it's more effective, but we're certainly welcoming this ordinance over no ordinance at all," Nachminovitch said.

Animal rights supporters streamed into City Hall in mid-December to complain about mistreatment of animals left outside when the city first broached the tethering issue.

While some people called for an outright ban on tethering, others asked Hampton officials to approve a measure equal to the three-hour limit passed in Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

Assistant City Manager James Gray said enforcing a time period dogs can be tethered would be nearly unenforceable.

At the time of the initial proposal, City Council members bumped the issue back to the city's animal control advisory committee for more public input.

Ads By Google

[House Training a Puppy](#)

Professional Dog Training Services In Southern California. Call Today!

www.K-9Companions.com

[Pet Waste Removal Company](#)

You Afraid To Go In Your Backyard? Sign Up Now For As Little As \$9.95!

www.Poop911.com/OrangeCounty

An online survey conducted by the city last winter drew responses from about 1,100 Hampton residents, nearly 60 percent whom support an all-out ban on tethering the animals.

Hampton Animal Control received 7,135 calls for service during the 2011 fiscal year, which extended from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. During that time, 1,515 dogs were picked up by control officers because of violations or neglect, according to city statistics.

Just 1,073 summons and notices were issued to animals owners in 2011 though, meaning just 15 percent of all calls animal control officers responded to resulted in the pet's owner being reprimanded.

Newport News does not have an ordinance restricting the period of time dogs can be tethered, although the city does regulate the length of rope used by pet owners, city spokeswoman Kim Lee said. State laws also allow the city to remove dogs from neglectful homes.

Nachminovitch said PETA has received a "steady stream" of calls since December from Hampton residents concerned about dogs left unattended and chained in back yards.

"We receive more calls when the weather is extreme, especially when the animal can't get to water or shade," she said.

Nachminovitch said PETA was notified after the June 1 tornado in Hampton tossed a trampoline into a backyard occupied by a tethered dog. The home owner still had not been outside by mid-afternoon the following day.

Bouts of extreme heat or cold also draw calls from citizens, she said.

"There are ordinances across the country designed to educate people about the hindrances of tethers," Nachminovitch said. "It just makes each community a better place to live."

Residents can share their opinions on the proposed ordinance during a public comment session beginning at 6 p.m. tonight, in the 8th floor council chambers in City Hall, 22 Lincoln St.

Animal chaining proposal

Chaining any animal is illegal when:

- No owner is present
- The animal is chained overnight
- The owner has not been issued a tethering permit
- The only person in the dog's presence is 16 or younger

Ads By Google

[pet care and dog walker](#)

Regal Paws provides pet care, dog walkers, overnight care

www.regalpaws.net

[Online Form Builder](#)

Fast & Easy to Use Pre-Built Forms. Over 500M Forms Submitted. Sign Up!

www.formsite.com/

Featured Articles



Zumba flash mob at Buckroe Beach July 28



800 new Green Mountain Coffee jobs coming to Isle of Wight



Karamanos set to try for another Virginia Derby win

MORE:

Newport News launches arrest database for public

Update: Newport News police arrest 110 in

York to open Section 8 housing voucher waiting list

July 23 Letters: Social Security, Romney and Bain, Budget 101

fugitive sweep
Ace Hardware will open Suffolk distribution facility

New jazz festival brings big, smooth names to Suffolk