

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND  
CHAPTER 6 (“ANIMALS”)  
OF THE  
CRAVEN COUNTY  
CODE OF ORDINANCES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Craven County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. That Chapter 6 (“Animals”) be amended, by adding a new Article VI (“Tethering of Household Animals”), to read as follows:

**Sec. 6-151. – Definitions.**

For purposes of this Article VI, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

*Adequate Food* means the provision at suitable intervals of a quantity and quality of proper foodstuff suitable for the species and age, sufficient to maintain the Household Animal’s health and well-being.

*Accumulated Waste* means animal urine, feces and other debris (household or otherwise).

*Adequate Water* means access to a supply of water that is clean, fresh and visibly free of excessive debris and organic material, provided in a sanitary manner at suitable intervals for the species.

*Extreme Weather* means those periods of time for which the National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning, Heat Advisory, Wind Chill Advisory, or Hurricane Warning, at the location where the Household Animal is Tethered.

*Household Animal* means a domesticated or tame animal that is kept primarily as a pet. This term does not include animals kept primarily for hunting, farm animals (as defined in G.S. Section 153A-145.4), service animals, and working animals.

*Shelter* means a three or more sided structure, with a solid, intact roof, and designed in such a fashion to protect the Household Animal from wind and adverse weather, and to provide it shade.

*Tethering* means to restrain a Household Animal outdoors by means of a rope, leash, chain, wire or other type of line for holding a Household Animal, one end of which is fastened to the Household Animal and the opposite end of which is connected to a stationary object, or to a cable or trolley system. This term does not include walking a Household Animal with a handheld leash.

**Sec. 6-152. – Prohibitions as to Tethering.**

No Household Animal shall be Tethered, except as follows:

A. Tethering devices shall be designed and utilized in a manner to prevent choking, strangulation, and injury. The Tethering device shall be connected to the Household Animal by a buckle-type collar or a body harness made of nylon or leather. Choke chains, ropes, and wire are prohibited methods of Tethering.

B. Tethering devices shall:

1. Be not less than 10 feet in length, nor less than 4 times the Household Animal's body length;
2. Have swivel hardware at each end to prevent tangling; and
3. Not weigh more than 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the Household Animal's body weight, without the prior written consent of Craven County Animal Control.

C. The area within which a Household Animal is Tethered shall be a minimum of 150 square feet, and large enough for the Household Animal to assume any normal body position including standing, sitting, lying and walking. The area of Tethering shall be free of Accumulated Waste so that the Household Animal shall be able to walk or lie down without coming in contact with the same. Drainage shall be provided in the area of Tethering to eliminate excess water or moisture.

D. A Tethered Household Animal must have access to Adequate Food, Adequate Water and Shelter at all times.

E. A Tethered Household Animal shall be currently vaccinated against rabies, and shall wear current rabies vaccination tags when Tethered.

F. A Household Animal may not be Tethered during periods of Extreme Weather.

G. Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this Section, none of the following Household Animals may be Tethered:

1. A sick, injured and/or diseased Household Animal.
2. A Household Animal less than 6 months of age.

**Sec. 6-153 - Penalties; Remedies.**

In addition to the penalties and remedies as set forth in Sections 1-11 and 1-12, violation of any provision of this Article VI shall constitute a misdemeanor; and any person convicted of such violation shall be punishable as provided in G.S. Section 14-4, or other applicable law.

2. *This Ordinance is adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, and shall be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2018.*

**CRAVEN COUNTY**

(County Seal)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
THOMAS F. MARK, Chairman  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
GWENDOLYN M. BRYAN,  
Clerk to the Board

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