

## What is Tethering?

Tethering is defined as: “attaching a domestic pet to a stationary object or pulley run by means of chain, rope, tether, cable, or similar restraint. Tether does not include the use of a leash to walk a domestic pet.”

-South Bend Municipal Code Sec. 5-2(www)

### Don't

- 🐾 Use rope, chain or cord attached to animal's neck as a restraint.
- 🐾 Use an agitation collar.
- 🐾 Tether:
  - between the hours of 11pm and 6am,
  - a dog that isn't neutered or spayed,
  - a dog if it's not being directly monitored by owner or guardian,
  - a dog under 6 months of age,
  - more than 3 dogs at the same time at the same residence,
  - dogs close enough to be in contact with one another,
  - dogs within 3 feet of another person's property,
  - a dog without access to adequate shelter.

### Do

- 🐾 Leash your pet appropriately while on walks.
- 🐾 Follow criteria for tethering found on the inside of this brochure.
- 🐾 Provide your dog with water and food.

## Why it Matters



### Dogs who live tethered outside:

- 🐾 are often not properly socialized
- 🐾 are more likely to bite a person (especially unsuspecting children)
- 🐾 can get loose and cause accidental litters - adding to pet over population and full shelters

### Contact Us!

South Bend Animal Resource Center

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Tips and complaints can be anonymous.



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## Tethering



The South Bend Animal Resource Center prevents animal cruelty and abandonment by promoting responsible, caring and compassionate attitudes towards animals.

SBARC's vision is to serve the South Bend community with programs and services that improve the welfare of animals.

With the motto “Open Door ~ Open Heart”, SBARC will offer resources for animal care, supplies, education, leisure, and training.

# Tethering Rules

per 5-22(a) of Municipal Code

No animal shall be hitched, tied or fastened by any rope, chain or cord that is directly attached to the animal's neck. If animals must be tied, hitched or fastened:

- 🐾 The length of the rope, chain, or cord must be no less than three (3) times the length of the animal and of an appropriate length for the animal to move freely without risk of injury; and
- 🐾 The weight of the rope, chain or cord is light enough to permit the animal to move freely without risk of injury; and
- 🐾 The collar and rope, chain, or cord cannot cause the animal to choke; and
- 🐾 A properly fitted collar or harness made of leather or nylon, not of the choker type is worn by the animal. This is not to prohibit the proper use of choker collars in the training of animals; and
- 🐾 The tying device shall be attached to the animal's leather or nylon collar or harness and must have a swivel device on both the anchor and collar end to prevent tangling; and
- 🐾 The location of the anchor and the length of the rope, chain, or cord, cannot cause the animal to become tangled, choke, or become injured; and
- 🐾 The animal must have access to water and shelter at all times.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1: I've been tying my dog out since I was a kid in South Bend. Why is SBARC concerned now?"**

A1: Studies have shown that dogs who are tethered are more likely to get loose and run-at-large. This creates a public safety hazard. A dog who is tethered is often less socialized and more likely to bite out of fear or aggression.

**Q2: Am I allowed to tether my dog if it's not fixed (spayed/neutered)?**

A2: NO! All animals tethered must be spayed or neutered.

If animals are tethered and are not fixed they are more likely to:

- bite a person (especially children!)
- get loose and run-at-large (which will cost you money to reclaim if picked up by an Animal Welfare Officer)
- become pregnant (resulting in unwanted puppies that contribute to pet over population and full shelters)

**Q3: Between what hours are dogs allowed to be tethered?**

A3: Dogs may only be tethered between the hours of 6am and 11pm.

Dogs are not to be tethered after 11pm. If you are found in violation fines may be issued up to \$2,500 per incident.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q4: Am I allowed to tether my dog for it to potty outside?**

A4: YES but the tethering rules listed in this brochure under "Tethering Rules" apply. Additional rules in Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code may also apply.

**Q5: What does my dog need if it's tethered?**

A5: If you choose to tether your dog all the rules listed in this brochure under "Tethering Rules" apply. Additional rules in Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code may also apply.

If your dog will be tethered for an extended period of time, proper FOOD, WATER, and SHELTER must be provided. If you are found in violation fines may be issued up to \$2,500 per incident.

**Q6: How long does the tether have to be and what can I use to tether my dog?**

A6: The dog must be wearing a leather or nylon collar with an appropriate tether attached in accordance with the rules listed in this brochure under "Tethering Rules." Additional rules in Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code may also apply.

**Q7: How do I report someone for inappropriate tethering?**

A7: Call us! Complaints can be kept anonymous if requested.