



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

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June 21, 2021

Mr. Matthew Quinones, President
The Stamford Board of Representatives
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

RE: LR30.103, Relating to Control of Dogs - AKC Recommends Amendment

Dear President Quinones and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the American Kennel Club (AKC), I write to extend appreciation for your collective concern regarding canine safety. Founded in 1884, AKC is a recognized expert in canine health, training, and breeding, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. For example, we offer [free lesson plans](#) for K-12 educators on the subject.

Dogs should never be tethered in a manner that could cause harm to them. The AKC recognizes that tethering is a practical and humane method for training and restraining dogs in a variety of circumstances. AKC opposes arbitrary restrictions on tethering, which can undermine the wellbeing of dogs, responsible dog ownership, and safe training and recreational activities.

Currently, Stamford ordinance Section 111-6, "Dogs," B. "Control of dogs," allows a dog to be off leash in your city when on the owner/keeper's private property or in public places posted for such use. LR30.103, *Relating to Control of Dogs*, proposes new text that would restrict the tethering of dogs to only if the owner is also physically outside and the dog is within view. The proposed change would have the ordinance read, by inserting the text in red, as follows:

- (1) No owner/keeper of any dog shall permit such dog on any public street or sidewalk or other public place unless such dog is on a leash held securely by such person.*
- (2) No owner/keeper of any dog shall permit such dog on the real property of another without the permission of the property owner or person having a possessory interest in said property.*
- (3) Notwithstanding the above, dogs may be unleashed in public places in areas which are securely enclosed by fencing, provided that such enclosed areas are posted that such use is allowed, such as the Stamford Dog Park. Nothing in this section shall require the City of Stamford or the Stamford Public Schools to establish such areas.*
- (4) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile device:*
 - (a) Unless the owner or keeper is outside with the dog and the dog is in the owner's or keeper's view;*
 - (b) For an unreasonable amount of time per Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22-350a;*
 - (c) Unless the tether allows the dog to walk at least eight feet and has swivels at each end to prevent twisting and tangling;*

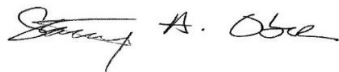
*(d)That is weighted or has chain links thicker than one-quarter of an inch;
(e)Unless the tether is not close to a pool, fence, highway or other hazard for the dog;
(f)For more than fifteen minutes when a weather advisory and warning has been issued
or extreme conditions will pose a risk to such dog; and(f)Unless there is shelter and
water within reach of the dog tethered.*

AKC is concerned that the proposed text could result in unintended consequences. For instance, to avoid violating the proposed tethering restrictions, an owner or keeper whose property is not fenced could opt to simply let a dog out unattended on their private property while attending to other household matters. This scenario would avoid fines for violating the proposed ordinance but, has the potential to create an even greater risk for the dog's safety and for the public.

Instead of the outside and in-view requirements, kindly consider amending the proposed text to require an owner or keeper be on the property when a dog is tethered outside. This amendment will provide some compliance leeway for owners or keepers while providing significantly improved chances that a tethered dog in any distress will have its needs immediately addressed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey A. Ober". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stacey" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ober".

Stacey Ober, J.D.
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AKC Government Relations