

**From:** [Jacqueline E. Fusco](#)  
**To:** [Board of Representatives](#)  
**Cc:** [Zelinsky, John](#)  
**Subject:** RE: dog tethering  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:26:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Please print for the meeting tonight.

Thank you.

#### STAMFORD DOG TETHERING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Exceptions: **1. If a person tethers their dog in an otherwise safe manner as described herein the owner or keeper is not required to be outside with the dog and the dog in the owner's view if the dog otherwise suited for the weather.**

While I am all in favor of preventing cruelty to animals, the new tethering restrictions that have been proposed and accepted are over broad, sweeping, ambiguous, lack accommodations for breed specific weather tolerances and intolerances and would force me to be cruel to my dogs in certain situations. I have 2 Siberian Huskies. I walk my dogs usually twice a day, but much more when they were younger. I tether my dogs in front of my house almost daily, depending on the weather, as that is my Huskies' preferred place to be. I tether them for safety since, as a breed, Huskies cannot be let off the lease as they will likely run off on an exploration that could last from minutes to hours to days. Huskies are independent thinkers and require dedicated and educated owners such as myself.

Well-meaning neighbors or passers-by who do not know that Siberian Huskies are best suited for the cold weather have complained about my dogs being outside, most recently in December 2020. I had exterior painters at my house and someone called Animal Control because my Siberian Huskies were outside. This is one of the few complaints made to Animal Control last year and was unfounded. My painter advised me that he advised AC that they were Siberian Huskies. AC should have been able to advise the caller before coming to my house that Siberian Huskies are safe and comfortable in cold weather, particularly when the "cold" weather is warm enough for exterior home painting. Instead, AC wasted time and taxpayer dollars coming to my home to investigate an unfounded complaint. In fact, I doubt there is any cold weather condition in Connecticut that typical Siberian Huskies cannot tolerate.

The new tethering restrictions will subject Animal Control to numerous unfounded complaints and subject me and other responsible dog owners to unreasonable consequences of those unfounded complaints.

My Siberian Huskies and other cold weather dogs are suited to temperatures well below zero degrees Fahrenheit and requiring me to remain outside with my dogs in cold weather is unreasonable and unrealistic. Forcing them to remain inside would be cruel.

I am not permitted to fence in the front of my property and the invisible fence system I installed for the dogs does not work on them. Tethering in the front of my house is the only safe option for my dogs when they want to be out front. Siberian Huskies have two thick coats and placing the invisible fence electrodes on the skin was impossible in the winter because of the thick undercoat. As Siberian Huskies are one of the breeds that has a heightened sense of smell they often ran through the fence, likely chasing various animals. I learned this after a neighbor advised me they saw my dogs chasing a deer. We also have an abundance of rabbits and other critters in my neighborhood which also prompt a chase. Many evenings were spent by my family and me looking for my dogs after they ran through the invisible fence chasing something. In order for an invisible fence to be effective I would need to tighten the collar to the extent it would choke my dogs. Shaving a Siberian Husky is not an option as such conduct would expose skin not otherwise meant to be exposed and lead to injury such as frostbite.

In addition, as a good dog owner I researched the breed extensively before they joined my family. Siberian Huskies are pack animals and I followed the recommendation to get at least two. Any claim that leaving my dogs outside is cruel because they are social and want to be inside with humans is inapplicable to my Huskies, particularly since there are two of them.

Siberian Huskies are intelligent dogs and require mental as well as physical exercise. Sitting in front of my house with a safety tether gives them the mental stimulation they would not otherwise receive if they were kept in my house or in the back yard. They watch the comings and goings in my neighborhood or just sleep, as many dogs do all day. The front of my house also has an abundance of shade in the summer time allowing them to spend some time outside almost every day. As a good owner they have adequate shelter and water if they so desire. Of course they have their limits and opt to stay in the air conditioning at times, mostly in higher humidity conditions. However, their preference is always outside when it is cooler/colder because it is less boring than being in the house.

My dogs are known to many near my home and those who walk their dogs through my neighborhood. Over the years I have received numerous compliments regarding their good nature and friendliness, particularly when they have been tethered in front of my house and other dog walkers walk by. My dogs just sit there and calmly watch the dogs go by. They do not bark at other dogs walking by or otherwise show any aggression or discontent. In contrast, from many houses that I walk past I hear and see dogs barking in the window. I spent substantial time and money with research, training and agility classes for their overall well-being and happiness. While tethering may adversely affect dogs that are mistreated, it does not adversely affect dogs that are well-treated by responsible dog owners.

Unfortunately, the broad, sweeping tethering restriction will target good dog owners and this Amendment allows for a good dog owner to legally tether their dog(s) when they otherwise comply with the law. This Amendment could also be tailored to target the specific injuries sustained from unsafe tethering incidents that have occurred in Stamford and the irresponsible dog owners that cause those injuries.

**2. If dogs have been tethered unsupervised in the past and the dog(s) are otherwise tethered in a safe manner as described above those dogs shall not be subject penalty as described herein as such a ban on tethering would constitute cruelty to those dogs.**

In addition to the above, this is a clause that would grandfather in dogs, such as mine who have been safely tethered for several years when the dog owner/keeper otherwise complies with the statutory safety standards already in place. It would be cruel to my dogs to not tether them when they want to be outside, particularly in the cold when I may be inside sitting by the fire.

**3. Any person who complains about a tethered dog and such complaint is found to be without merit shall be subject to a fine comparable to the fine that would have been imposed on the dog owner or keeper.**

This would protect me and other responsible dog owners from malicious and unfounded complaints from well-meaning, but ignorant persons or angry neighbors seeking to inflict harm.

Jacqueline E. Fusco, RN, JD



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**From:** Jacqueline E. Fusco

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:18 PM

**To:** [jzelinsky@stamfordCT.gov](mailto:jzelinsky@stamfordCT.gov)

**Subject:** RE: dog tethering

John,

Thank you for keeping me updated on the Board's position regarding the new tethering language in Stamford. Here are my reasons for seeking the below exceptions.

I attached it as a word document as well to make it easier to print. Note I reduced the number to 3 Amendments.

Jackie

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**From:** Jacqueline E. Fusco

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:01 PM

**To:** [jzelinsky@stamfordCT.gov](mailto:jzelinsky@stamfordCT.gov)

**Subject:** dog tethering

John,

Here are my proposed exceptions:

Exceptions: 1. If a person tethers their dog in an otherwise safe manner as described herein the owner or keeper is not required to be outside with the dog and the dog in the owner's view if the dog otherwise suited for the weather.

2. If dogs have been tethered unsupervised in the past and the dog(s) are otherwise tethered in a safe manner as described above those dogs shall not be subject penalty as described herein as such a ban on tethering would constitute cruelty to those dogs.

3. Cold weather dogs such as the Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute or any other dog suited for cold weather shall not be subject to the tethering restrictions or penalty herein for any weather advisory, warning or extreme conditions as the conditions in Stamford, CT never reach the extreme conditions found in such other places as Alaska and Antarctica where these cold-weather dogs are found to thrive and such prohibition on tethering would constitute cruelty to those dogs.

4. Any person who complains about a tethered dog and such complaint is found to be without merit shall be subject to a fine comparable to the fine that would have been imposed on the dog owner or keeper.

Thanks,  
Jackie

**Jacqueline E. Fusco, RN, JD**



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