

### 633.23 Tethering of dogs/Prohibition of keeping dogs outdoors in extreme weather

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, restrain or cause an unattended dog to be fasted, chained tied or restrained to houses, trees, fences, garages, stakes or other stationary or highly immobile objects by means of a rope, chain, strap or other physical restraint for the purpose of confinement except in circumstances where all of the following requirements are satisfied:

(a) The tethering is not for a longer period of time than reasonably necessary for the dog, owner or custodian to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be physically restrained; and,

(b) The tether is attached to the dog by a non-choke type collar and attached to the stationary object by swivel anchors, latches or similar devices in a manner which prevents the tether from becoming entangled around any object so as to limit the dog's freedom within the tethered area, or to prevent the dog, or any of its appendages, from becoming entangled by the tether; and,

(c) The tether must be of a type commonly used for the size of the dog involved and if the tether is a chain, it may not be thicker than 1/8 inch; and,

(d) The tether shall be at least three (3) times the length of the dog as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, but no less than 10 feet in length and shall allow the dog convenient access to the dog house.

(e) The dog has easy access to potable drinking water, edible food, and adequate shade and/or shelter within the tethered area.

(f) The dog is periodically monitored while tethered for the aforementioned reasonable period of time; and,

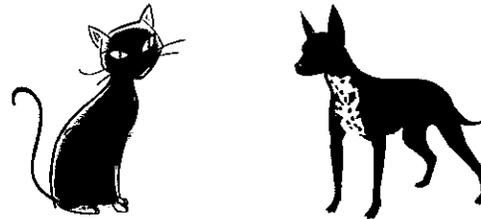
(g) The dog is not tethered outdoors during any period in which a severe weather warning has been issued for Allegheny County by the National Weather Service; and,

(h) The dog is not tethered outdoors for a continuous period of time greater than 1/2 hour if the temperature during such period remains entirely below 32° Fahrenheit or above 90° Fahrenheit.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any dog outside and unattended during any period in which a severe weather warning has been issued for Allegheny County by the National Weather Service for a continuous period of greater than 1/2 hour if the temperature during such period remains entirely either (a) below 32° Fahrenheit or (b) above 90° Fahrenheit. (c) Outside, for purposes of this section, shall mean any unattended dog that is outside subject to the weather and elements, which expressly includes, but not limited to, a dog in securely fenced-in yard, a dog in a kennel, or a dog tethered or tied out. The dog shall be considered "outside" regardless of access to an outdoor doghouse or similar structure.

### Description of Services

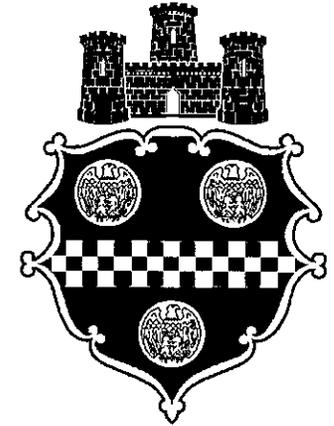
Animal Control agents capture stray animals, assist in pet/owner recovery, resolve neighbor disputes over animals, assist the elderly and physically challenged with animal concerns, advise and teach residents their responsibility as pet owners, advise non-pet owners of their rights, capture and release non-state mandated wildlife and capture state mandated wildlife. The Bureau also quarantines animals and provides removal of deceased animals on and off the roads.



Responsible pet owners need to know that along with the obligation to properly feed, shelter, and care for a pet, there are laws (ordinances) to protect the animal, the pet owner, and the community.

"Owner" includes every person who keeps or shelters an animal, and every person who allows an animal to be on their property (land or house), which is occupied by him or her. This means that if you are in possession of an animal, whether you own it or not, you are responsible for its care, behavior, and welfare.

## City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety Bureau of Animal Care and Control



### Our Mission:

**The Bureau of Animal Control serves the residents of the City of Pittsburgh by providing care, control and resolutions to situations dealing with domestic animals and wildlife.**

**Questions or concerns?**

**Office: (412) 255-2036**

**Mayor's Response Line: 311**

**[www.pittsburghpa.gov/animalcontrol](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/animalcontrol)**

**[ACC@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:ACC@pittsburghpa.gov)**

**Please note: The mayor's response line and e-mail are for non-emergency inquiries only.**

Rev. January 2015

## Title Six - Conduct - Article III

### 633.02A DOG LICENSE REQUIRED

(a) No person shall keep, harbor or maintain a dog over the age of three (3) months unless the owner obtains a license from the City Treasurer or his or her authorized agent.

### 633.03 CAT IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED BY OWNER.

No person shall keep, harbor or maintain a cat that roams freely unless the owner identifies the cat or cats with an identification collar or tag that shall clearly and legibly state the cat owner's name, address and telephone.

### 633.05 RABIES VACCINATION.

Proof of a dog or cat's current rabies vaccination shall be provided to an employee of the City Animal Control Department upon request. [As of February 13, 1987, Pennsylvanians who own or keep dogs and household cats over the age of three months must have them vaccinated against rabies. Inoculations must be administered or supervised by a licensed veterinarian. For each animal vaccinated, the veterinarian must provide the animal's owner or keeper with a vaccination certificate and tag.]

### 633.07A TAG AND COLLAR; NONTRANSFERABLE OR LOST.

Upon payment of the license fee, there shall be issued to the owner a tag for each dog licensed. The tag shall be changed every year and shall have stamped thereon the year for which it was issued. Every owner shall be required to provide each dog which ventures upon the public streets, sidewalks or other public places with a collar to which license tag shall be affixed.

### 633.08 DOGS AT LARGE PROHIBITED.

No person, whether as owner or person in possession, shall permit his or her dog to run at large upon the public streets, sidewalks or other public places, or upon the property of another. A dog shall be restrained by the use of a leash, or a chain not exceeding six (6) feet in length, at all times when upon public places, streets and park.

### 633.09 HARBORING A NUISANCE

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any dog, cat or other animal in the City so as to create offensive odors, excessive noise or unsanitary conditions, which are a

menace to the health, comfort or safety of the public, or otherwise permit the commission or existence of a nuisance as defined herein.

(b) Any dog, cat or other animal, which by frequent and habitual barking, howling, screeching, yelping or baying, or in any way or manner disturbs the quiet of any person or the community, or which disturbs or endangers the comfort, repose or health of persons, is hereby declared to be committing a nuisance. No owner or person having custody of the animal shall harbor or permit it to commit a nuisance.

(c) Any dog, cat or other animal which scratches, digs or defecates upon any lawn, tree, shrub, plant, building or any other public or private property, other than the property of the owner or person in charge or control of the animal, is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

(d) No person being the owner or in charge or control of any dog, cat or other animal shall permit the animal to commit a nuisance on any school grounds, City park or other public property, or upon any private property other than that of the owner or person in charge or control of the dog, cat or other animal without the permission of the owner of the property. Where the owner or person in charge or control of the animal immediately removes all feces deposited by the animal and disposes of same in a sanitary manner, the type of nuisance shall be considered abated.

(f) Any female dog or cat in season shall be kept properly confined indoors.

### 633.10 SHELTERS.

(a) Dogs and cats shall be provided access to shelter which protects them against inclement weather, keep them dry and allows them to preserve a normal body temperature.

(b) Dog Houses

(1) A person in charge or control of any dog which is kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure shall provide the dog with shelter and bedding as prescribed in this section as a minimum.

(2) Building specifications. The shelter shall be a moisture proof and windproof structure of suitable size to accommodate the dog and allow retention of body heat. It shall be made of durable material with a solid, moisture proof floor raised at 3 inches from the ground, the roof should extend eight (8) inches over the doorway to keep out rain. In no instance shall a dog house be constructed of metal or other material that readily conducts heat or cold.

(3) Between November 1 and March 31 the structure must have a windbreak at the entrance. The structure shall be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of straw, cedar shavings, or the equivalent, to provide insulation and protection against cold and dampness and promote retention of body heat.

(a) Hay, blankets, rags and other materials that retain moisture shall not be utilized for bedding. These materials retain moisture and freeze when wet.

(4) Shade from the direct rays of the sun, during the months of May to October shall be provided.

(c) Dog houses shall be of a size to accommodate the dogs so as to allow for ample room for the dog as follows:

Depth=dog's length + 12"; Width=dog's length + 18"; Height=dog's height + 3" (low side), + 9" (high side)

### 633.11 NONDOMESTIC CANINE, NON-DOMESTIC FELINE AND HYBRIDS.

No person or residence shall be permitted to own, harbor or maintain a non-domestic canine, a non-domestic feline or hybrid within the City limits. This section shall not apply to any educational, institutional, zoological garden or circus.

### 633.12 NUMBER OF PETS PERMITTED IN CITY LIMITS; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) Except for qualified people or residences performing foster care and/or placement work with animals, no person or residence shall be permitted to own, harbor or maintain more than five (5) dogs or cats or any combination thereof within City limits. For said exemption to apply, any qualified persons or residences performing foster care and placement work with animals must obtain an Exemption Permit from the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Animal Care & Control. The sufficiency of an applicant's qualifications for said Exemption Permit shall be determined by the Supervisor of Animal Care & Control or designee. All Exemption Permits are valid only through December 31st of the year in which they are issued. All Exemption Permits must be renewed on an annual basis in January of each successive calendar year thereafter. The permit may be revoked if it is determined that such revocation is in the best interests of public safety and/or the animals inhabiting the permitted location.