Welcome to the Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc.

As many of you may already know our organization was a result of AKC urging member clubs in Maryland to build a “federation” to get out in front of canine legislation in the State of Maryland that could affect how we own, play or even breed our dogs. Many states already have federations, so it was only fitting that Marylanders work together to protect our rights!

RDO-MD was incorporated in April 2018. We are now fully functioning and operational as we continue to build our “army” of members. Now we are tackling some of the legislations that are bubbling up from our Maryland Counties. It should not be surprising that once a County proposes and approves canine legislation, other counties follow suit. We are finding that now with anti-tethering. It’s starting to spread like a virus.

We also want to thank you for joining the RDO-MD……we cannot do what needs to be done without your support and help. We also cannot do our job without the support or AKC Government Relations. We all need to work together.

However, we are always looking to increase our “army” so please encourage all your dog clubs, friends and family to join us too!

Let us hear from you!

Mary Lou
Mary Lou Olszewski
President

What is the RDO-MD and AKC Government Relations stand on Tethering?

The American Kennel Club and the Responsible Dog Owners Club of Maryland, Inc. recognized that tethering is a practical and humane method for training and restraining dogs in a variety of circumstances. Dogs should never be tethered in a manner that could cause harm to them. Tethering is a common and responsible way to restrain dogs that do not respond well to other restraints (such as escape artist) or participate in activities that require acclimatization such as hunting, sledding, and/or other obedience and performance events. Tethering may also be a responsible and appropriate option for handling dogs that are service dogs such as seeing eye dogs, dogs in training, and dog that are being groomed or examined on a table. AKC opposes arbitrary restrictions on tethering, which can undermine the wellbeing of dogs, responsible dog ownership, and safe training and recreational activities.
New Anne Arundel County Dog Laws May Affect You

The county's laws about how dogs must be treated and sheltered while outdoors will change August 4, 2018. Here is a summary of the new requirements:

1) Unsupervised dogs cannot be tethered (tethering means fastening a dog by a chain, rope, pulley or other means to a stationary object):
   a) Dogs CANNOT be tethered to anything UNLESS they are SUPERVISED. Supervised means "in direct observation of an owner" (so you can't run to the store or take a shower while your dog is tethered, but if you can see your pet, that is okay).
   b) Even if supervised, a dog cannot be tethered outside if the temperature is below 33 degrees or above 89 degrees Fahrenheit.

2) A shelter (dog house) is required for a dog left unattended outdoors, and must:
   a) Have a waterproof roof, four solid walls (one of which has an entry large enough for the dog) and a solid and level floor. No other cracks or openings are allowed.
   b) Be built of weather resistant material, with no metal interior surfaces.
   c) Be raised at least two inches off the ground.
   d) From December 1 - March 15 have an accessible covered entry or an entry that is offset to act as a windbreak.
   e) Continue to comply with previous requirements for non-absorbent bedding, sufficient shelter size, clean drinking water available at all times in a non-tip bowl, overall cleanliness and other requirements.

3) Dogs must have shade
   A dog must have access at all times to man-made or natural shade that is separate from its shelter and large enough to cover the entire dog. (In warmer months, a dog house can become extremely hot inside.)

4) Minimum enclosure size requirements have been added for dogs confined outdoors:
   a) An outdoor enclosure/pen/closed run for a dog that weighs less than 80 pounds must contain a minimum of 100 square feet (example: a 10' by 10' enclosure).
   b) A dog 80 pounds or heavier must have access to a minimum of 150 square feet (example: a 10' by 15' enclosure).
   c) For each additional dog under 80 pounds in the same enclosure, a minimum of an additional 50 square feet must be added.
   d) For each additional dog 80 pounds or heavier in the same enclosure, an additional 75 square feet of space is required.
   [Dogs with potentially dangerous or dangerous breeds that had required enclosures before August 4, 2018 are not affected.]

QUESTIONS? CALL Anne Arundel County Animal Control 410-222-8900


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Contact Us

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Website: Coming soon!

For additional information write: RDOOFMD@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/RDOoMD/

Join Today!

We stand together to protect our rights as:
Owners
Sport Enthusiast
Breeders
All thing Dogs!

Stay tuned to a membership meeting in October!