



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

Volume 1 / Issue 1



What's Happening "Hot" in Maryland?

Baltimore County –
"Oscar Bill" Bill 23-18 -
Concerning Animal
Welfare. This bill took
effect on April 30, 2018.
This bill is not ideal and
could be detrimental to
those of us that like to
have fun with our dogs.
We are working on
opening a dialogue with
the County Council.
Tethering bill in the future.

Anne Arundel County –
Bill 50-18 Concerning
Tethering – This bill was
proposed in May and will
take effect August 4,
2018. A reasonably
written bill. Moved fast.

Calvert County –
Currently discussing a
tethering bill

Howard County –
working with AKC on a
tethering bill. We are
hearing good news.

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. Its starting to spread like a virus.

We also want to thank you for joining the RDO-MD.....we can not 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!

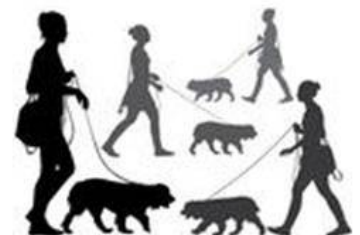
Mary Lou

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 or 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 orders that had required enclosures before August 4, 2018 are not affected.)

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

Full text of new requirements: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/legislation/bills-and-resolutions/AMENDED%20BILL%20NO.50-18.pdf>



AKC.ORG

AKC Adopts New Position Statement on Tethering – American Kennel Club

Stay tuned to a membership meeting in October!

First they came....

First they came for the **Circus Animals**, and I did not speak out— because I was not an entertainer.

Then they came for the **Show Horses**, and I did not speak out— because I was not an equestrian.

Then they came for the **Show Dogs**, and I did not speak out— because I was not a competitor.



Now they are coming after My Pet — And there is no one left to speak for me.

Visit <https://pdownership.com> to learn how you can help.



Contact Us

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Website: Coming soon!

For additional information write:

[**RDOOFMD@gmail.com**](mailto:RDOOFMD@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RDOofMD/>



Join Today!

We stand together to protect our rights as:

Owners

Sport Enthusiast

Breeders

All thing Dogs!

