



ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD

June 30, 2018

Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3434 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
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We, the members of the Animal Matters Hearing Board (AMHB) of Howard County, are writing in support of the Amendment to No. 39-2018 (Chaining Bill).

As a Board we are charged with hearing matters brought before us regarding violations of Howard County's animal laws. We are a Board comprising community members and have heard many cases over the years of varying severity, many of which have been abuse and neglect cases.

Dogs are companion animals and as such, require interaction with humans on a regular basis. They are not solitary animals. Oftentimes tethered animals are left alone for long periods of time. Without proper socialization, behavior problems can develop. For example, tethered dogs can become frustrated and overly protective of themselves and the space where they're tethered. This can be unintentionally dangerous for people as well as the tethered dog. A tethered dog is likely to protect itself from anyone it deems a threat because the dog has learned s/he is not able to run from danger. Also, a dog that develops behavior problems because of inadequate contact with humans becomes more difficult to manage. Often these dogs end up needing intervention from the community such as concerned neighbors, the police, and Animal Control staff who must investigate and advocate on behalf of these dogs.


Unsupervised tethered dogs are also vulnerable to other animals that come close to them who may do them harm, such as stray dogs or wild animals. These dogs are also vulnerable to people who have unkind intentions and may harm these confined dogs.

Tethering is also dangerous as there have been cases where dogs have been injured or hanged as their tethers got too tight while wrapping around whatever object the dog was tethered to.

The AMHB members also support this Bill as it legislates bringing dogs in when temperatures are extremely cold or extremely hot. Dogs are domestic animals and, as such, are not suited to living in extreme temperatures. Unfortunately, there have been cases of dogs who have frozen to death or who have succumbed to heat exhaustion as a result of being left outside when temperatures became extreme.

It is for these reasons we, the members of the AMHB, support the Amendment to No. 39-2018 (Chaining Bill) and we hope that you will pass this legislation and protect the human and animal citizens of Howard County.

Representing the members of the Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board,

  
Paula M. Schultz, Vice Chairperson AMHB

Victoria L. F. Gaunt (District 1)  
LaRee Siddiqui (District 1)  
Paula M. Schultz, Vice Chairman AMHB (District 2)  
Dorothy Ruck (District 2)  
Elaine R. Ritchey (District 3)  
Connie Molter, Chairperson AMHB (District 4)  
Flavia Delmastro, DVM (District 5)

cc: Deb Baracco, Administrator, Howard County Animal Control  
Deb Edelman, Executive Secretary, Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board  
Barry Sanders, Howard County Office of Law