

For Immediate Release  
December 23, 2015

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## City Looks for Feedback from the Community

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg City Council is considering changes to a city code in relation to animal welfare.

The changes under consideration are to city code Chapter 15, specifically to the rules regarding tethering of dogs.

Current city ordinances in Chapter 15 Section 2 provide for the condition of the premises where animals are kept and define cruelty to animals in relation to food, drink, sheltering, and emergency veterinary attention. The proposed changes define how a dog can be tethered, adequate space, and duration of time.

In the proposed changes, city staff recommends the tethering duration not to exceed 60 continuous minutes more than four times in a 24-hour period. Leaving a dog outside and alone for more than 60 minutes is what would violate this ordinance.

Other things to consider with these changes would be to limit the time of day that a dog may be tethered and to broaden the scope of the ordinance to apply to all companion animals (cats, pot belly pigs, etc.).

Also under the current proposal, the first violation constitutes a Class 3 misdemeanor, punishable by fine of up to \$500 with increasing fines and the possibility of jail time for subsequent offenses within the same year.

What do you think? The city has posted a discussion to [www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org](http://www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org) and would like to receive feedback from members of the community on this topic. To participate, simply visit [www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org](http://www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org), go through the simple registration process, and click on the discussion titled, "How Should the City Regulate the Tethering of Animals."

In addition to commenting on Be Heard Harrisonburg, City Council anticipates holding a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, January 26. City Council meetings are held in council chambers at City Hall, 409 S. Main St. and begin at 7:00 p.m.

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