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## City Reminds Residents of New Tethering Ordinance

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg reminds residents of a new ordinance that will soon go into effect.

Although approved in February, the new tethering ordinance will be effective starting June 1.

This ordinance, [city code section 15-2-1](#), states that dog owners may not tether an unattended dog for more than one hour continuously or for four hours cumulatively within a 24-hour period. The tether must be at least three times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail. The tether should not be too heavy and not exceed 10% of the dog's body weight and only one dog should be attached to a single tether.

The only dogs that should be tethered are those six months of age or older and if female, a dog that is sterilized or not is estrus.

Some alternatives to tethering a dog are to bring your dog indoors or to install yard fencing, a dog run, or electronic fencing.

This ordinance will be monitored and enforced by the Harrisonburg Police Department's (HPD) Animal Care and Control Unit. Additional information is available at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/animal-care-and-control](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/animal-care-and-control).

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting [www.HREmergencyAlert.com](http://www.HREmergencyAlert.com).*



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