



## FACA Policy Statement

### Tethering of Dogs

FACA recognizes that the issue of tethering of dogs is a growing concern throughout the state. The traditional role of animals in society has and continues to evolve. Different attitudes prevail as to how an animal is kept and whether it is appropriate for an animal to live its life entirely outside.

Jurisdictions should consider quality of life, public safety, humane treatment and property rights when dealing with this complex issue. While an animal is kept outdoors it should be provided minimally with food, water and shelter from the elements. Rabies vaccinations are required by state law and are even more important for animals that may come in contact with wildlife by being outdoors. Additionally, living in "the Sunshine State" presents weather, parasite, and other risks to animals kept outdoors.

1. FACA recommends that certain concerns should be considered in each community, such as: Limiting tethering to a time limit poses enforcement challenges. Tethered animals kept within a visual range or while the owner is actually outside may eliminate this challenge.
2. The safety of the construction of tethers and the safety of the surrounding environment for both humans and dogs must be defined if tethering is allowed.
3. A tethered female in heat creates substantial animal control issues within that neighborhood.
4. Agencies considering the appropriateness of a tethering restriction for their jurisdiction are encouraged to develop dialog with peer agencies to assess best management practices.
5. Outdoor kennels with dog houses, securely fenced yards allowing free movement of untethered animals, and keeping animals indoors as companion pets are all good alternatives to tethering.

Last Revised: June 2013