



ALERT

Senate Agriculture Committee will hear proposed legislation that all dog owners should reject! Please call or email the members of Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation Committee (see below) and politely ask them to vote against the following bills:

[S.B. 1025](#)

Patron: Spruill

Tethering of animals; adequate shelter and space. Provides that outdoor tethering of a companion animal does not meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate shelter, unless the animal is actively engaged in an agricultural or hunting activity, when tethering is conducted (i) when the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, or 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; (ii) during a heat advisory; or (iii) during a severe weather warning. The bill provides that a tether meets the requirement that an animal be given adequate space if the tether is four times the length of the animal or 15 feet in length, whichever is greater, and does not cause injury or pain, weigh more than one-tenth of the animal's body weight, or have weights or heavy objects attached to it. Current law provides that the tether be three times the length of the animal. The bill exempts agricultural animals from existing provisions related to tethering. The bill also authorizes any locality to adopt ordinances that parallel and make more stringent the state law regarding the care of companion animals.

This is the same bill that was defeated in the House last year!

[S.B. 1058](#)

Patron: Favola

Companion animals; care; local ordinances. Authorizes any locality to adopt an ordinance that parallels and makes more stringent the state law regarding the care of companion animals.

This bill is the most dangerous dog bill so far because it would let Cities and Counties enact local laws that are far more radical than existing state law. Keep dog lawmaking at the General Assembly! This would allow a County to enact Senate Spruill's tethering and temperature requirements or ban all tethering. This is an HSUS/PETA dream come true!

S.B. 1367

Patron: Norment

Dogs running at large in packs; local ordinance; civil penalty. Authorizes any locality to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the running at large of dogs in packs. The bill provides that such ordinance shall contain an exception for a dog engaged with its owner or custodian in lawful hunting or a lawful, organized dog-handling event and shall subject the owner or custodian of any dog found running at large in a pack to a civil penalty in an amount established by the locality not to exceed \$100 per dog. The bill requires that civil penalties be deposited by the local treasurer in the dog and cat license fund, which is used to support animal control.

This bill as currently offered is a problem for hunting dog owners, as is the current Code section.

S.B. 1604

Patron: DeSteph

Cruelty to animals; aggravated cruelty; penalty. Increases from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony the penalty for cruelly and unnecessarily beating, maiming, mutilating, or killing a dog or cat. Current law requires that the dog or cat die as a direct result of torture, or inhumane injury or pain, before the violation is a Class 6 felony.

We support this bill.

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