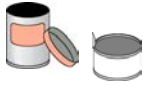


# Prince George's County Government

## Proper Care Standards for Enforcement of Anti-Cruelty Laws

*Distributed by the City of College Park Animal Control*



### **Proper Food:**

Food should be wholesome, palatable and free from contamination. Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and be of adequate nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health.

The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size and type of animal.

Animals should be fed at least once a day except as dictated by veterinary advice or other professionally accepted practices for the safety and well being of the animal.

All food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary. Receptacles used to store food shall be kept covered.

If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each animal receives enough.



### **Proper Drink:**

Proper drink shall mean clean, drinkable water available at all times for animals.

Exceptions shall be determined by veterinary consultation or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well being of the animal.

Animals that are being worked or are in transport shall be provided water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animals. Frequency of watering shall consider age, species, condition, size and type of animal. Activity levels and climatic conditions must also be considered.

All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary, be of appropriate design and size for the animal, and be positioned or affixed to prevent spills.



### **Proper Air:**

Holding areas shall be constructed to allow a free flow of fresh air.

### **Dogs in Pens:**

The size of the pen is determined by the size and number of dogs housed therein. Dogs housed together must be socially compatible. It is recommended that no more than four compatible dogs be housed in single pen.

Minimum space for dogs in pens (not including shelter space) shall be as follows:

# of Dogs	Small (<25lbs)	Medium (25-50lbs)	Large (> 50lbs)
1	3x7 (21sq ft)	6x10 (60sq ft)	8x10 (80 sq ft)
2	4x8 (32sq ft)	8x10 (80 sq ft)	8x12 (96 sq ft)
3	5x9 (45 sq ft)	8x12 (96 sq ft)	10x14 (140 sq ft)
4	8x10 (80 sq ft)	10x12 (120 sq ft)	12x16 (192 sq ft)

### **Dogs on Tethers: Improper Confinement:**

The continuous maintenance of a dog on a chain, rope or other kind of tether is abnormally restrictive and stressful and often results in health and temperament problems. In most cases such confinement will cause the dog to suffer unnecessarily. However, tethering may be acceptable in certain cases where adequate daily socialization and exercise off the tether have been verified.

If a dog is confined on a tether, except for periods of time that are brief and incidental, the tether shall be at least fifteen (15) feet in length and positioned to prevent tangling and hanging. The tethered dog shall wear a properly fitted harness or buckle type collar, and be released from the tether at least twice daily for exercise. A properly installed and positioned running line is preferable to a stationary tether.

No other animals shall be tethered unless under the supervision of a custodian capable of handling the animal.



### **Proper Space:**

All animals shall be able to stand to their full height, stretch out, turn around, lie down and make normal postural adjustments comfortably.

Animals shall be allowed to exercise and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition. Space and provisions for exercise must be appropriate for the species and sufficient to meet the needs of the animal.

Space available to the animal must be useable, i.e., maintained in a safe and healthful manner, free of standing water, accumulated waste and debris.

The following space standards may not be sufficient for certain animals and should be increased if necessary. Indicators of improper space and confinement include poor physical condition, abnormal behavior patterns such as pacing or circling within the area of confinement, or other signs of stress.

### **Caging of Dogs and Cats:**

Cage confinement of dogs and cats is abnormally restrictive and stressful and is only acceptable for temporary confinement. Dogs and cats should not be caged except upon veterinary advice, transport or for other professionally accepted practices.

Dogs kept in cages shall be removed from them and exercised a minimum of twice a day – once in the morning and once in the afternoon – for a minimum of a half an hour each time, or once a day for a minimum of two hours. More frequent exercise periods (3-4 daily) are recommended to allow an animal to regularly eliminate out of the cage.

Dogs in cages shall be monitored as necessary to keep the cage free of urine and fecal matter.

Cats confined in cages must be provided with litter pans and litter material. Litter pans shall be cleaned and litter material changed as necessary to prevent odor and accumulation of urine and fecal matter.

### **Small Mammals in Cages:**

Caging for small mammals and rodents, such as guinea pigs, rabbits and hamsters, shall be of a size sufficient to permit foraging activities, contain a place to burrow or nest and space necessary for the animal to exercise.



#### **Proper Light:**

All animals shall have at least ten hours of light a day, except as directed by hibernation, veterinarian advice or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well being of the animal.

Lighting of primary enclosures shall be designed to protect animals from excessive illumination. The duration of illumination shall be appropriate for the species involved.



#### **Proper Shelter / Protection from the Weather:**

##### **Indoor Shelter:**

Facilities shall be sufficiently regulated by heating and cooling, if necessary, to protect animals from extremes of temperature and to provide for their health and well being.

The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below or rise above temperatures compatible with the health and well being of the animal.

Facilities shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health and well being of the animal at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, fans or air conditioning, and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors and moisture condensation.



##### **Outdoor Shelter:**

All animals kept outdoors shall have access to shelter that provides protection from the weather, i.e. wind, precipitation or other inclement weather conditions.

Shelter shall be well constructed and appropriate for the species. Consideration shall be given to the animals age, physical condition and haircoat when determining whether available shelter is proper.

All animals shall have access to shade from the sun during hot weather.

### **Proper Outdoor Shelter for Horses, Cows and Other Ungulates:**

Shelter for ungulates shall have a roof and face away from prevailing winds. The shelter may be floorless and have three sides.



### **Proper Outdoor Shelter for Dogs:**

The shelter for a dog shall have a roof enclosed sides, a doorway, and a solid, level floor raised at least two (2) inches from the ground. The shelter shall be shades during hot weather months.

Between November 1 and March 31 and whenever the real or effective (i.e. wind chill, rain), temperature is 45 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, the following shall be provided:

- The entryway shall be protected by a self closing door, an offset outer door, or a flexible flap made of windproof material.
- Bedding, such as cedar shavings, straw or other non-absorbent material shall be provided in sufficient quantity for insulation against cold and damp. Bedding shall be kept dry.

If there is no artificial heat source, structures shall be small enough to allow the animal to warm the interior of the structure and maintain his or her body heat but large enough to permit normal postural adjustments.



### **Necessary Veterinary Care:**

#### **Emergency Treatment:**

An animal shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have suffered an injury, accidental or deliberate, and exhibits such signs as shock, temperature fluctuation, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, inability to eat or drink, blistering, irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, irrational behavior, orificial discharge or bleeding, or other such sign.

Animals who are debilitated and weakened, or those exhibiting symptoms of bloat or other life threatening illness such as persistent vomiting or diarrhea – shall be afforded immediate veterinary care.

#### **Treatment within 48 Hours:**

An animal who has exhibited signs of disease or severe parasitic infestation such as infection, orificial discharge, loss of appetite, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, tremors, temperature fluctuation, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness, or any other such sign over a period of forty eight hours or more shall be afforded veterinary care within the next forty eight hours.