

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Witt
Nays:	Whitsett
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26, 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates offense of unlawful tethering of domestic animal in person's custody or control and establishes offense as Class B violation. Specifies unlawful tethering if person tethers domestic animal in person's custody or control: (1) with tether that is not reasonable length given size of animal and available space and allows animal to become entangled, (2) with collar that pinches or chokes animal when pulled, (3) for more than 10 hours in 24 hour period, or (4) for more than 15 hours in 24 hour period if tether attached to running line, pulley or trolley system. Establishes person does not commit offense if person tethers animal: (1) while animal remains in physical presence of person who owns or controls animal; (2) pursuant to requirements of campground or other recreational area, (3) to engage in activity that requires licensure, including hunting, (4) to allow person to transport animal, or (5) is a dog kept for herding, protecting livestock or dogsledding. Specifies that person commits crime of animal neglect in first degree if person tethers domestic animal and tethering results in serious injury or death to animal. Specifies that person commits crime of animal neglect in second degree if person tethers domestic animal and tethering results in physical injury to animal. Defines adequate bedding, adequate shelter and tethering.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for entanglement under tree which otherwise provides shade
- How exceptions apply
- Prevalence of harmful tethering
- Potential interference with game code
- Alternatives to tethering

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Revises list of criteria constituting unlawful tethering. Revises definitions of adequate bedding and adequate shelter.

BACKGROUND: Eighty percent of dog-related complaints to which law enforcement responds involve tethered dogs. In Multnomah County last year, of the nearly 700 reported cases of animal neglect and abuse, 106 were related to tethering and tethering violations. House Bill 2783 A would create the offense of unlawful tethering of domestic animal and establish such offenses as Class B violation