

# New Ordinance Makes it a Crime to Keep Your Dog on a Chain 24/7.

Keeping a dog chained up has always been cruel and inhumane. Now, it's also illegal. If you break this law, you may be subject to penalties of up to a \$500 fine and/or six months in jail. Here are details of Wichita City Ordinance 6.04:

- It is unlawful to keep a dog tethered in place for more than one hour at a time.
- After a break of three hours, the dog may be tethered again for one hour, but for no more than a total of three hours per day.
- The tether — whether it's a chain, leash or rope — must be at least 10 feet long and weigh less than 1/8th of the animal's body weight.
- The tether must be attached to a collar or harness in such a way to prevent injury.
- The dog must be tethered to prevent strangulation, injury or entanglement.

## Take a Stand

Even if your dog is safe and healthy inside your home, please be aware of other dogs in your neighborhood who aren't so lucky. If you see a dog who is being mistreated or neglected in some way, please don't just stand by and watch it happen. Report the violation immediately. Speak for those who can't speak for themselves.



If You See a Dog  
Who Needs Help, Call:  
**268-8473**  
Wichita Animal Control



[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

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# Is This Any Way to Treat Man's Best Friend?



# Don't Be Cruel

**D**ogs are pack animals. The cruelest thing imaginable is to chain them up all day long and deny them the company of other living things. Chained dogs often get aggressive and dangerous. They may bark constantly. Tethering can be deadly. All too often, dogs are strangled by their own chains. By law, chaining your dog is no longer an option. There are safe, humane and convenient alternatives:

## Bring Your Dog Indoors

Dogs crave the companionship of people. When your dog has the proper house training, inside the home with the human family is the best place to be, especially during freezing weather.

## Fence Your Yard

Home improvement stores offer classes on putting up fences cheaply and easily. If your dog can jump a fence, install a 45° inward extension. A properly installed "hot wire" just inside and along the bottom of the fence\* is also a good option for both jumpers and diggers. If you can't build a fence, don't put your dog in a tiny pen or kennel. At the very least, the pen should meet the minimum size recommendations listed below. Allow extra space for a doghouse, and increase pen size incrementally per additional dog.

### Minimum Pen Size Per Dog

Small Under 25 lbs.	Medium 25-60 lbs.	Large 60 lbs. and over
150 Sq. Ft. (10' x 15')	200 Sq. Ft. (10' x 20')	250 Sq. Ft. (10' x 25')

\*Contact Animal Control for details on proper hot wire installation.

# Be a Good Owner

Once your dog is inside the home, and in a nice fenced yard with plenty of room to run around, there are many things you can do to keep your dog happy, healthy and well-adjusted:

## Provide Plenty of Exercise

Dogs need to run, sniff and explore. Each day, let your dog out of the fenced area or pen for exercise time, freedom and socialization. Taking your dog for a nice long walk keeps your dog in peak condition. A tired, well-exercised pet is happy and less likely to misbehave.

## Take Your Dog to Training

Training classes for you and your dog will help make the transition to living indoors much easier. You'll learn how to communicate with your dog, and keep everyone under your roof happy.

## Visit the Toy Store

Just like kids, dogs need the stimulation provided by toys. Even a knotted towel or tennis ball can deliver hours of fun. Plus, keep plenty of rubber bones and chew toys on hand.

## Spay or Neuter Your Dog

An unaltered dog is more likely to be aggressive and overactive. For information on spaying and neutering, contact the Kansas Humane Society or your veterinarian.

## Get Your Dog a Buddy

If you can't pay the necessary attention to your dog, consider getting it a companion. Another dog will provide the warmth and fun your pet needs. Consider adopting a companion from the Wichita Animal Shelter.

# Shelter Your Dog

If you must keep your dog outside in a fenced yard, there are many things you can do to keep him safe, healthy and happy:

## Provide Dry, Insulated Shelter

The shelter should have a sloping roof and be built 4 to 6 inches off the ground to avoid moisture. The door should face away from the wind to help keep rain and cold winds out. Also, provide hay as bedding and clean it once a week. Plus, clean the pen area daily to remove waste and provide an odor-free, fly-free area. Cedar chips/shavings also help reduce fleas.

## Provide Shade

A doghouse is not shade. During the summer, temperatures inside a doghouse can rise to dangerous levels. Instead, make sure your dog can cool off in the shade of a tree or even a tarp. You can also add a kiddie pool.

## Provide Fresh Water & Food

Make sure your dog has a large tip-proof water bowl. Dig a hole and place the bowl inside it at ground level. You can also purchase a self-waterer for your outside faucet.

