

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

TITLE 10. HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ANIMALS

CHAPTER 821. TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS

SUBCHAPTER A. TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Text of section effective until January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.077. UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT OF DOG. (a) An owner may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint that unreasonably limits the dog's movement:

- (1) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.;
- (2) within 500 feet of the premises of a school; or
- (3) in the case of extreme weather conditions,

including conditions in which:

(A) the actual or effective outdoor temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit;

(B) a heat advisory has been issued by a local or state authority or jurisdiction; or

(C) a hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued for the jurisdiction by the National Weather Service.

(b) In this section, a restraint unreasonably limits a dog's movement if the restraint:

(1) uses a collar that is pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type or that is not properly fitted to the dog;

(2) is a length shorter than the greater of:

(A) five times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of the dog's nose to the base of the dog's tail; or

(B) 10 feet;

(3) is in an unsafe condition; or

(4) causes injury to the dog.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 674 (H.B. [1411](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Text of section effective until January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.078. EXCEPTIONS. Section [821.077](#) does not apply to:

(1) a dog restrained to a running line, pulley, or trolley system and that is not restrained to the running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a pinch-type, prong-type, choke-type, or improperly fitted collar;

(2) a dog restrained in compliance with the requirements of a camping or recreational area as defined by a federal, state, or local authority or jurisdiction;

(3) a dog restrained for a reasonable period, not to exceed three hours in a 24-hour period, and no longer than is necessary for the owner to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be restrained;

(4) a dog restrained while the owner is engaged in, or actively training for, an activity that is conducted pursuant to a valid license issued by this state if the activity for which the license is issued is associated with the use or presence of a dog;

(5) a dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock; or

(6) a dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 674 (H.B. [1411](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Text of section effective until January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.079. PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates this subchapter.

(b) A peace officer or animal control officer who has probable cause to believe that an owner is violating this subchapter shall provide the owner with a written statement of that fact. The statement must be signed by the officer and plainly state the date on which and the time at which the statement is provided to the owner.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person is provided a statement described by Subsection (b) and fails to comply with this subchapter within 24 hours of the time the owner is provided the statement. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) A person commits an offense if the person violates this subchapter and previously has been convicted of an offense under this subchapter. An offense under this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor.

(e) If a person fails to comply with this subchapter with respect to more than one dog, the person's conduct with respect to each dog constitutes a separate offense.

(f) If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 674 (H.B. [1411](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Text of section effective until January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.080. DISPOSITION OF PENALTY. Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of a court that collects a penalty under

this subchapter shall remit the penalty collected for deposit in the general fund of the county.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 674 (H.B. [1411](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Text of section effective until January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.081. HAND-HELD LEASHES. This subchapter does not prohibit a person from walking a dog with a hand-held leash.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 674 (H.B. [1411](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

SUBCHAPTER E. UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT OF DOG

Text of section effective on January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

- (1) "Adequate shelter" means a sturdy structure:
 - (A) that provides the dog protection from inclement weather; and
 - (B) with dimensions that allow the dog while in the shelter to stand erect, sit, turn around, and lie down in a normal position.
- (2) "Collar" means a band of material specifically designed to be placed around the neck of a dog.
- (3) "Harness" means a set of straps constructed of nylon, leather, or similar material, specifically designed to restrain or control a dog.
- (4) "Inclement weather" includes rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds, extreme low temperatures, or extreme high temperatures.
- (5) "Owner" means a person who owns or has custody or control of a dog.

(6) "Properly fitted" means, with respect to a collar or harness, a collar or harness that:

(A) is appropriately sized for the dog based on the dog's measurements and body weight;

(B) does not choke the dog or impede the dog's normal breathing or swallowing; and

(C) does not cause pain or injury to the dog.

(7) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 6 (S.B. [5](#)), Sec. 1, eff. January 18, 2022.

Text of section effective on January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.102. UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT OF DOG; OFFENSE. (a) An owner may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint unless the owner provides the dog access to:

(1) adequate shelter;

(2) an area that allows the dog to avoid standing water and exposure to excessive animal waste;

(3) shade from direct sunlight; and

(4) potable water.

(b) An owner may not restrain a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint that:

(1) is a chain;

(2) has weights attached;

(3) is shorter in length than the greater of:

(A) five times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of the dog's nose to the base of the dog's tail; or

(B) 10 feet; or

(4) is attached to a collar or harness not properly fitted.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates this section. The restraint of each dog that is in violation is a separate offense.

(d) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the offense is a Class B misdemeanor if the person has previously been convicted under this section.

(e) If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 6 (S.B. [5](#)), Sec. 1, eff. January 18, 2022.

Text of section effective on January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.103. EXCEPTIONS. (a) Section [821.102](#) does not apply to:

(1) the use of a restraint on a dog in a public camping or recreational area in compliance with the requirements of the public camping or recreational area as defined by a federal, state, or local authority or jurisdiction;

(2) the use of a restraint on a dog while the owner and dog engage in, or actively train for, an activity conducted under a valid license issued by this state provided the activity is associated with the use or presence of a dog;

(3) the use of a restraint on a dog while the owner and dog engage in conduct directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock;

(4) the use of a restraint on a dog while the owner and dog engage in conduct directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products;

(5) a dog left unattended in an open-air truck bed only for the time reasonably necessary for the owner to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be left unattended in the truck bed;

(6) a dog taken by the owner, or another person with the owner's permission, from the owner's residence or property and restrained by the owner or the person for not longer than the time necessary for the owner to engage in an activity that requires the dog to be temporarily restrained; or

(7) a dog restrained while the owner and dog are engaged in, or actively training for, hunting or field trialing.

(b) Section [821.102](#)(b)(3) does not apply to a restraint attached to a trolley system that allows a dog to move along a running line for a distance equal to or greater than the lengths specified under that subdivision.

(c) This subchapter does not prohibit a person from walking a dog with a handheld leash.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 6 (S.B. [5](#)), Sec. 1, eff. January 18, 2022.

Text of section effective on January 18, 2022

Sec. 821.104. EFFECT OF SUBCHAPTER ON OTHER LAW. This subchapter does not preempt a local regulation relating to the restraint of a dog or affect the authority of a political subdivision to adopt or enforce an ordinance or requirement relating to the restraint of a dog if the regulation, ordinance, or requirement:

(1) is compatible with and equal to or more stringent than a requirement prescribed by this subchapter; or

(2) relates to an issue not specifically addressed by this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 6 (S.B. [5](#)), Sec. 1, eff. January 18, 2022.