



Did you know that it is against city ordinance to have your pet running loose in the city limits of Alpine?

The ordinance reads:

Sec. 10-116. Restraint of animals and birds.

Every person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any domestic animal or bird shall keep such animal or bird under his control by means of physical restraint as follows:

- (1) Confined on the premises of the owner within a fence or enclosure.
- (2) Fastened or picketed by a lead, rope, or chain so as to keep the animal on the premises.
- (3) Under the control of a person by a leash.
- (4) On or within a vehicle being driven or parked.
- (5) The living area for each animal being kept confined or restrained shall have adequate drainage such that the animal shall be free to walk or lie down without coming in contact with standing water.
- (6) If any animal is restrained by a chain, leash, wire cable or similar restraint, such restraint shall be designed and placed to prevent choking or strangulation or entanglement with other objects. Such restraint shall not be less than ten feet in length.
- (7) If any animal is kept in an enclosure, the enclosure shall be constructed of material, and in a manner to minimize the risk of injury to the animal and shall encompass sufficient usable space to keep the animal in good condition.

Any domestic animal or bird in violation of this section may be seized and impounded by the animal control officer.

Don't forget our tethering ordinance:

Sec. 10-60. Tethering of animals; unlawful restraint of a dog.

Every person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any domestic animal or bird shall keep such animal or bird under his control by means of physical restraint as follows:

(a) Tethering of animals. A person commits an offense if he tethers, chains, or otherwise secures an animal by or under any of the following methods or circumstances:

- (1) To tether any animal with a tether that is a chain or has weights attached. The tether must be equipped with swivel ends and which is not also attached to a pulley or a trolley;
- (2) To tether an animal in such a way that it is capable of moving within 15 feet of any public right-of-way, park, or other public land, including sidewalks, or within five feet of any privately or commercially owned property line when such tether or line is stretched to its full length;
- (3) To tether any animal in such a manner as to cause the animal injury or pain or not to permit the animal to reach shelter, food and/or water or otherwise create an unsafe or unhealthy situation;
- (4) To tether any animal in a manner whereby the animal is subject to harassment by people, stings or bites from outdoor insects or attacks by other animals;
- (5) To tether any animal in such a manner that does not prevent the animal from becoming entangled with any obstruction, from partially or totally jumping any fence, or from leaving its owner's property;
- (6) To fail to remove waste from the area within which the animal is tethered on a reasonable basis so as to avoid a health hazard;
- (7) To tether any animal without using a properly fitted collar or harness which prevents the tether from being directly wrapped around the animal's neck;
- (8) To tether with a choke-type or pinch-type collar of any sort is forbidden, when animal is tethered;
- (9) To tether any animal in such a manner as to permit the animal to leave the owner's property.

(b) Unlawful restraint of a dog. The restraint of each dog that is in violation is a separate offense. 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 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 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.

1. In the case of subsections (b)(3)(a–c), being violated, the animal services officer has the right to remove the animal from the owner's property without a seizure warrant issued by a judge and house said animal at the animal shelter until proper means of protection from the weather can be met and approved by the officer. If proper means of protection have not been completed within ten days of the removal of animal, the animal becomes property of the City of Alpine and is subject to adoption or euthanasia if the animal is found to be not adoptable.

- (4) In this section, a restraint unreasonably limits a dog's movement if the restraint:
 - a. Uses a collar that is pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type or that is not properly fitted to the dog;
 - b. Is a length shorter than the greater of:
 1. 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
 2. Ten feet.
 - c. Is in an unsafe condition; or
 - c. Causes injury to the dog.

- (5) Exceptions. This section does not apply to:
 - a. 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;
 - b. 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;
 - c. 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;

- d. 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;
- e. A dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of sheepherding or herding cattle or livestock; or
- f. A dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural product: if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

Here are some safe and fun things to do with your pet to enrich their life and to keep them safe:

DOGS:

- 1.** Walk around the block.
- 2.** Visit the dog park (Alpine has a dog park, located near the Kokernot park behind the KVLV radio station).
- 3.** Play fetch.
- 4.** Schedule a doggy playdate with another dog.
- 5.** Go for a run or hike.
- 6.** Find a swimming hole or get a kiddie pool you can both enjoy.
- 7.** Hit the pet friendly establishments with your pet.
- 8.** Play with their favorite toy.

CATS:

- 1.** Toy chase or cat wand.
- 2.** Hide and seek.
- 3.** Purchase a cat tower/tree.
- 4.** Find a friend for them.
- 5.** Build a catio (outdoor enclosure).

WHAT TO DO IF MY PET GOES MISSING?

Always check the area where your pet went missing first. Check with neighbors and then give us a call to report them missing 432-837-3486 or 432-837-9030. If you are able to post them on the Alpine Friendly Pets Facebook page do so immediately. A lot of pets don't even make it to the shelter because our wonderful community will also keep an eye out for you.

Make sure your pet is microchipped. Microchipping your pet is also required per city ordinances and is a great way to get your pet returned to you fast! We can place a microchip in your pet for \$15 at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy Alpine, TX 79830. Call 432-837-9030 to schedule an appointment to get them chipped today.

