

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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## **Heat Advisory Triggers Tethering Restrictions**

*Massachusetts' tethering law updated in 2016*

With oppressive heat scorching much of Massachusetts, the National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory for many parts of the state, and the advisory triggers a section of the updated tethering law that many pet owners may not be aware of.

According to Massachusetts General Law Ch. 140, Section 174E, Subsection D, dogs cannot be:

- Tethered to a stationary object for longer than five hours in a 24-hour period
- Tethered outdoors between 10 PM and 6 AM, unless not for more than 15 minutes and when the owner/guardian/keeper is present.

However, during periods of extreme weather:

- A person shall not leave a dog outside when a weather advisory, warning, or watch is issued by a local, state, or federal authority, or when outside environmental conditions including, but not limited to, extreme **heat**, cold, wind, rain, snow, or hail pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the dog, unless the tethering is for not more than 15 minutes.

Under this law, any law enforcement officer, including special law enforcement officers with ARL and the MSPCA have the authority to issue citations or warnings for owners who do not comply: \$50 first offense; \$100 second offence; \$300 and possible loss of ownership with a third or subsequent offenses.

“This statute is important on a variety of fronts,” said ARL Law Enforcement Director Lt. Alan Borgal. “Tethering a dog in these conditions for hours on end is cruel. What if the dog knocks his water bowl over? Being in the extreme heat leads to heat stroke or dehydration very quickly. Tethering a dog can also cause physical harm and mental distress. These laws are in place to protect animals, and to ensure that they are being taken care of properly.”

The NWS advisory takes effect from noon to 8 PM and with real-feel temperatures in the high 90’s and even triple-digits, the dangers to animals are real and ARL asks pet owners to take proper precautions to ensure their animal’s safety.

Click [here](#) for full text of the existing law.

**ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:**

***The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes.*** Founded in 1899, ARL provides high quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2018, ARL served 17,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government grants or public funding and rely solely on the generosity of individuals to support programs and services that help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at [www.arlboston.org](http://www.arlboston.org); and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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