

DOG-RELATED ORDINANCE REGARDING TETHERING AND LIMIT ON OWNERSHIP

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD PARAGRAPH (H) to § 94.04, "ANIMALS, BIRDS, AND BEES," OF CHAPTER 94, "NUISANCES: HEALTH AND SAFETY," OF TITLE IX, "GENERAL REGULATIONS," OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW CODE OF ORDINANCES, O-1.

The City of Saginaw ordains:

Section 1. Paragraph (H) shall be added to § 94.04, "Animals, Birds, and Bees," of Chapter 94, "Nuisances: Health and Safety," of Title IX, "General Regulations," of the City of Saginaw Code of Ordinances, O-1, and shall read as follows:

(H) In the case of dog(s), the following standards shall apply:

(1) **Leash.** No person shall permit a dog to go outside its kennel, pen, or fenced yard, unless such dog is securely leashed with a leash of adequate strength to restrain the dog.

(2) **Tethering.** Dogs cannot be tethered as a primary means of confinement. Tethers can be used as a secondary means of control within a fenced yard or pen or at the residence of a dog owner without a properly fenced yard when the owner is present or nearby in the yard or residence to render assistance or further control of the dog. Such tethering devices must not cause harm or injury. Owners who tether for a secondary measure subject themselves to other local, state or federal regulations designed to prevent cruelty to the animal or harm to humans or other animals.

(3) **Confinement.** All dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed outside structure maintained in such a manner as to effectively prevent the dog(s) from escaping the confines of the enclosure, except when leashed or tethered as above provided. Such pen or kennel shall not be constructed to interfere or obstruct access to any metering device provided by the City or other public agencies. All such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated.

(4) **Confinement Indoors.** No dog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition.

(5) **Limit on Ownership.** No person shall own, possess, control, or otherwise have charge or custody of more than three (3) dogs over the age of four (4) months at any time regardless of breed. If a person owns, possesses, controls or has custody of more than three (3) dogs at the time of the enactment of this ordinance, that person may maintain such specific dogs, but may not own, possess, control or have custody of any other or additional dog that would raise this number above three (3). This limit does not apply to lawful animal care or control facilities, humane societies, rescue groups, certain service and hunting dog breeders, or registered animal foster homes. A person may not operate a commercial dog breeder or broker operation without first registering with the City Clerk and receiving a business license.

Introduced: June 6, 2011
Enacted: June 20, 2011
Effective: June 30, 2011.