

8. (New section)
Fines and Penalties

- a. A violation of section 2, 4, or 5 of this act will constitute failing to provide necessary care pursuant to 4:22-17 & 26, and a violator will be subject to the applicable penalties.
- b. A person who violates section 3 of this act shall be subject to :
- (1) First Offense, at the discretion of the court, a fine of \$100.00
 - (2) Second Offense, at the discretion of the court, a fine of \$200.00
 - (3) For a third offense or subsequent offense, the offense shall constitute failure to provide necessary care and the violator shall be subject to the applicable penalties set forth in those sections.



Township of Stafford
Department of Animal Control

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N.J.S.A Title 4
Chapter 19 -Dogs
Chapter 22-Prevention Of
Cruelty To Animals

**New Law
Advisory**

August 7th, 2017
Effective Immediately

The new law supplements Title 4 of the revised Statutes, providing definitions for a variety of terms and establishes additional animal cruelty offenses, and procedural requirements, and the requisite penalties.

We encourage all pet owners of Stafford Township to become familiar with these laws, and the requirements.

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What pet owners should know.....

Title 4 Chapter 22

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Definitions:

“Adverse environmental conditions” means (1) when the ambient temperature is 32’ degrees Fahrenheit or below in the immediate vicinity of a dog, domestic companion animal, or service animal, or there are other cold weather or precipitation-related environmental conditions, including but not limited to, wind, rain, snow, ice, sleet, or hail that a person should reasonably know would pose an adverse risk to the health and safety of the animal. (2) when the ambient temperature is 90’degrees Fahrenheit or above in the immediate vicinity of the dog, domestic companion animal or service animal, or the animal is exposed to direct sunlight or hot pavement or any other hot surfaces that a person should reasonably know would pose an adverse risk to the health and safety of the animal.

“Domestic companion animal” means any animal commonly referred to as a pet that was brought, bred, raised, or otherwise acquired, in accordance with local ordinances and State and federal law, for the primary purpose of providing companionship to the owner, rather than for business or agricultural purposes.

“Proper shelter” means a structure or other type of protection that conforms to the standards and requirements set forth in section 5 of this act.

“Tether” means to fasten a dog with a cable, chain, rope, or other similar object to a stationary object, including but not limited to, a doghouse, tree, stake, pole, fence, wall, or a device that is mobile.

“Unattended” means that a dog, domestic companion animal, or service animal is outdoors and a person is not also outdoors with the animal, or that the animal is indoors and a person is not also indoors with the animal.

“Necessary Care” means care sufficient to preserve the health and well-being of an animal, including but not limited to: food of sufficient quality and quantity to allow for normal growth and maintain body weight, adequate access to water, access to adequate protection from the weather, and veterinary care to alleviate suffering and maintain health.

2. (2- New section) a. it is unlawful to expose any dog, domestic companion animal, or service animal to “adverse environmental conditions for more than 30 minutes, unless the animal has continuous access to proper shelter, defined in section 5.

b. if an order of evacuation due to weather or other emergency conditions is issued, owners shall make every effort to evacuate with their animal and shall not leave the animal indoors or outdoors while unattended and tethered.

(1) deliver the animal to safe haven not impacted by the emergency

(2) secure animal in an indoor area that is clear of hazards and is as protective of the animal and alert local emergency responders to the animal’s location.

3 (new section) a. it is unlawful for any person to cruelly restrain a dog.

b. a person cruelly restrains a dog if the person tethers a dog:

(1) which is a nursing female, or is less than 4 months old;

(2) outdoors between the hours of 11pm and 5 am;

(3) is an unoccupied building or upon vacant property

(4) In a manner that does not permit the dog continuous access to water for more than 30 minutes;

(5) in a manner that exposes the dog to adverse environmental conditions for more than 30 minutes;

(6) by means of a choke collar, prong collar, head harness, or any other type other than a properly fitted body harness or buckle type collar;

(7) by using a chain with metal links, or tether which weight is attached

(8) tether on which more than one dog is restrained;

(9) with a tether that is less than 15ft in length;

(10) with a tether that permits the dog to reach another dog, object, or location that poses a risk of entanglement, strangulation, drowning, or other harm to the health or safety of the dog, including but not limited to, another dog’s tether or window sill, fence, wall, porch, terrace railing, vehicle, pole, pool, or public road or highway.

4. (New section) a. It is unlawful to confine any dog, domestic companion animal, or service animal in any structure, room area, or container that does not comply with the requirements of “proper shelter” (see section 5)

b. (1)A person can confine an animal temporarily in a carrier or crate or the purpose of transport (2b) as long as the head of animal cannot touch the ceiling of the carrier or crate when the animal is in normal standing position, and the animal can easily turn around in a full circle and lie down on its side.

(2) a person may confine temporarily for the purpose of (a) transport (b) any exhibition, show, contest, class, training session, (c) is the dog is used or being trained, to hunt wildlife in a lawful manner.

5. (New section) a. Proper shelter shall be a structure or other type of protection that meets, at minimum, the following standards and requirements:

(1) it provides at all times (a) adequate ventilation to allow the animal to remain dry and maintain normal body temperature (b) access to water in a liquid state, (c) exposure to natural or artificial light in regular cycle of day and night, (d) sufficient space so the animal can easily turn around in a full circle and lie down on the its side with limbs outstretched, and (e) head of the animal cannot touch the ceiling;

(2) maintained to minimize any accumulation of waste, debris, precipitation, or other moisture inside;

(3) prevent the sagging or collapse of any part, and is maintained in good repair with no exposed sharp edges;

(4) remains upright at all times;

(5) in the event of adverse environment conditions for 32’ degrees and below(a) it must be a structure with solid roof, walls, with a single opening no larger than necessary, floor is not on the ground, (b) insulation, dry bedding, and windbreak entrance to keep animal dry and maintain body temperature.

(6) in the event of adverse environmental conditions defined in paragraph 2 of 90’ degrees shelter must provide the animal with adequate shade or other cooling area by natural or artificial means;

Proper Shelter shall not include (1) crawl space under a building, part of a building such as under steps, a deck, or stoop; (2) under a vehicle. (3) the inside of vehicle (4) any structure made from pressure treated wood with chemicals, cardboard, or floor consisting of wire, chain-link with openings that a paw, hoof, or foot can pass through.