

PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-21

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 6-32(e) OF
ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CODE
RELATING TO THE TETHERING OF DOGS; AND ESTABLISHING
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds it to be in the public interest to amend its Animal Control Ordinance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

Section 1. Section 6-32(e) of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Putnam County Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto.

Section 2. The provisions hereof shall supersede any provisions covering the same subject previously adopted by the County Commission.

Section 3. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners and shall take effect upon receipt of official acknowledgement from the Department of State that this Ordinance has been filed.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: _____
Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Smith
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

APPENDIX A

(e) **Animal cruelty.** It is unlawful for any person to subject any animal to animal cruelty. For purposes of this subsection, the term "animal cruelty" shall mean any act or acts of neglect, torture, or torment that causes unjustifiable pain or suffering of an animal. With respect to any animal, such acts include, but are not limited to:

- a. overdriving;
- b. overloading;
- c. overworking;
- d. torturing;
- e. deprivation of necessary sustenance;
- f. beating or whipping;
- g. riding;
- h. driving or working when sick and unfit to work;
- i. failure to provide reasonable veterinary care;
- j. failure to provide proper food and drink;
- k. failure to provide shelter or protection from weather;
- l. failure to provide, for any animal that is kept out-of-doors, sufficiently weatherproof shelter, to include a structure of at least three (3) windproof sides, a waterproof roof, and flooring or ground-covering to protect from extreme temperatures;
- m. carrying any animal in or upon any vehicle in a cruel or inhumane manner;
- n. abandonment upon any street, road, or other place; and
- o. other similar practices.

It shall also be considered "animal cruelty" to tether a dog outdoors, except when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The tether is connected to the dog with a buckle-type collar or a body harness made of nylon or leather, not less than one (1) inch in width;
The tether has the following properties:
 - a. it must be at least five (5) times the length of the dog's body, as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail; and
 - b. it terminates at both ends with a swivel; and
 - c. it does not weigh more than one eighth (1/8) of the dog's weight; and
 - d. it is free of tangles.
3. The dog is tethered so as to prevent injury, strangulation, or entanglement;
4. The dog has access to reasonable shade, water, shelter and dry ground;
5. The dog is at least six (6) months of age;
6. The dog is not sick or injured;
7. Pulley, running line or trolley systems are at least fifteen (15) feet in length and are less than seven (7) feet above ground;
8. If there are multiple dogs, each dog must be tethered separately.

For purposes hereof, tethering means to restrain a dog by tying the dog to any object or structure, including but not limited to, a house, tree, fence, post, garage or shed, by any means, including but not limited to, a chain, rope, cord, leash or running line. (This shall not include using a leash for walking purposes.)