



YES on HB 646 (J. Bell) & SB 872 (Spruill)

Protect dogs by strengthening standards for shelter and space, prohibit chaining in extreme weather conditions.

Current state law does not prevent dogs from suffering at the end of chains 24 hours a day.

Dogs are social animals that thrive on interaction and companionship. An otherwise friendly dog, if rarely taken off a chain, can become anxious and aggressive. Research conducted by the **Center for Disease Control** found that chained dogs are more than 5 times more likely than unchained dogs to bite children under the age of 12. Chained dogs are often victims of neglect, suffering from sporadic feedings, painful and ill-fitted collars, and inadequate shelter.

Virginia's dogs need protection from extreme weather.

Even with an outdoor shelter, extended exposure to brutally cold temperatures can result in frostbite and hypothermia—and death (A dog was found frozen to death in Lynchburg on New Year's Eve). In the summer months, heat stroke is a common cause of death for dogs. Current law offers no protection for dogs in these cases, or in the case of a hurricane, tropical storm, tornado, or other severe weather situations.

This legislation will offer these common sense protections for dogs in Virginia:

- Ensure that dogs are not left chained during extreme weather: extreme cold or heat as well as weather emergencies.
- Provide basic standards for length, weight, and type of tether, ensuring that when tethered, dogs have freedom of movement and can interact safely with other animals and their environment.