



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 14260/22
Your ref: A925540

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6 September 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 August 2022 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3744-22 on 16 August 2022: Ban unattended dog chaining.

The petition requests to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (the Act) that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement / tethering of a dog.

I thank the petitioners for raising this issue and acknowledge the ongoing interest of the community on this issue, having responded to a petition in May 2022 (3673-21) which made an identical request.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing standards and legislation which protect the welfare of all animals in Queensland, and which meet community expectations.

As you are aware, on 12 May 2022, I introduced the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) to the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly referred the Bill to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, which has since recommended the Bill be passed. The Legislative Assembly will debate the Bill in due course.

Tethering and other types of confinement of dogs is adequately covered under section 18 of the Act, which provides that a person is cruel to an animal if they confine it in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare.

Treating inappropriate tethering and confinement under section 18 reflects community views about cruelty. Any offences relating to tethering carry a maximum penalty of 2 000 penalty units or three years imprisonment. The Bill will remove a provision on closely confined dogs, which has a lesser penalty and has proven difficult to enforce.

If you require further information, please contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities**