



Tompkins County SPCA

Animal Control Division

New York State's Dog Shelter Law

You are required to provide shelter for your dog under state law, section 353-b of the New York Agriculture & Markets Law. The Tompkins County SPCA, as well as local police agencies, can enforce the new law. If your dog spends any time outdoors, you must provide shelter to protect the dog from direct sunlight, rain, snow, wind, cold weather, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The shelter must be waterproof, insulated, allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Violators will receive a court citation and be required to pay a fine ranging from \$50 to \$250, as well as to show proof of shelter for the dog.

I. Minimum Requirements

1. A dog restrained outdoors must have shade to protect the dog from direct sunlight.
2. A dog left outdoors in inclement weather must also have a housing facility that:
 - Has a waterproof roof;
 - Is structurally sound with insulation appropriate to local climatic conditions and sufficient to protect the dog from inclement weather;
 - Is constructed so as to allow each dog adequate freedom of movement to make normal postural adjustments, including the ability to stand up, turn around, and lie down with limbs outstretched; and,
 - Allows for effective removal of excretions, other waste material, dirt, and trash.

3. In addition, the area surrounding the housing facility and the facility itself must be regularly cleaned.

II. Penalties

1. First offense: Fine ranging from \$50.00-\$100.00.
2. Second and subsequent offense: Fine ranging from \$100.00-\$250.00.
3. Once seventy-two (72) hours has passed since a violation, each new day the violation is not remedied constitutes a new violation.
4. A dog may be seized by officers based on violation of this section.

This fact sheet summarizes the new law. It is not intended to answer all questions or cover all aspects of the law. For the full text of the new law, contact your local legal aid office, attorney, or public library. If you have any questions, you may also telephone the SPCA at 257-1822 and ask to speak to an Animal Control Officer.