



## Dogs aren't born mean, it's people that make them that way

12:00 AM CST on Friday, January 25, 2008

There are probably a lot of ways to make a mean dog, but one sadly tried-and-true method is to tie it up out in the yard and forget about it.

No doubt, there are responsible owners who see nothing wrong with tethering a dog outside for a few hours of fresh air and exercise, whose pets are probably none the worse for it.

But we've all seen the others: the scary pit bull that erupts in a barking frenzy, lunging and straining at the end of the chain when it sees you coming down the sidewalk. Or the sad-eyed mutt tied up next to a doghouse, its existence limited to the worn-down patch of dirt defined by the rope's radius.

These aren't pets. They're prisoners.

Before you think that I've gone all PETA on you and that I'll shortly be saying lobsters experience complex emotions and chickens require indoor carpeting, consider that this isn't just a dog problem. It's a public-safety problem, and a social problem. It's a *people* problem.

Last week, Dallas' Animal Shelter Commission proposed a package of recommendations that I fervently hope this city (and all others) will seriously consider.

They advise limiting the number of animals one household may keep; they impose a nearly universal requirement for pets to be spayed or neutered; and they ban tethering or chaining unsupervised dogs to trees or posts.

Like many cities, Fort Worth has already acted: This week, the City Council banned tethering any unattended dog. A city health department news release sent out after the action states the obvious: "There is evidence that tethering dogs makes them more dangerous. ... Our animal control officers encounter on a daily basis tethered dogs that are left without food, water, or shelter."

Ordinances like this one, or the measures proposed in Dallas, are about a thousand times more practical and humane than the knee-jerk wave of ban-the-breed legislation that sweeps through after every publicized dog attack.

The reason: As veterinarians and health officials – experts – patiently keep saying, dog problems are caused by *people*. It's human behavior that got us to the point where entire neighborhoods in ostensibly civilized American cities look like Third World shantytowns: sick, skinny, half-feral animals roaming the streets; crazed, chained-up dogs prized for their meanness by half-witted gangsters or homeowners who use them as cheap burglar alarms.

Outlaw a "mean" breed, and these imbeciles will go to work on a "friendly" one.

A veteran animal control officer in Louisiana's Calcasieu Parish recently told a television station there: "I've seen the chow go through that phase. And the Rottweiler and the Doberman. ... The pit bull has just hung on a lot longer than any of those dogs."

Pet owners (you can save that "companion animal" business – until our cats start paying for groceries, we're the owners) have obligations, not only to their animals, but to their neighbors and their communities.

Consider that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that a dog routinely tethered or chained up is nearly three times more likely to bite than a dog that's fenced or kept indoors.

Or that, according to a Pennsylvania-based anti-tethering advocacy group, 194 children nationwide have been killed or maimed by chained dogs in the last five years. You may not lose much sleep over dogs, but surely you care about kids, don't you?

Domestic dogs don't "choose" to be chained up, or run loose, or breed indiscriminately, any more than a family pet who peed on the floor one time too many "chooses" to be unceremoniously dumped by the highway.

Humans, disgracefully, *do* choose to mistreat them, neglect them, let them roam loose, chain them up, or egg them into aggressiveness.

Banning breeds, euthanizing ever-increasing numbers of strays and letting people do whatever they please with their own "property" are not just inhumane solutions – in practical terms, they aren't solutions at all.

Dallas' "dog problem" is in reality a "people problem." And it's past time to hold those people accountable.

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## OPINION

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Editorial: Chained dog can be time bomb

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Tuesday, September 04, 2007

In at least four instances in Texas last year, people who thought a chained dog was a good investment got a horrifying wake-up call.

- [Comment on this story](#) In those four cases, children were mauled to death by tethered dogs.

The reaction by these dogs to unsuspecting children tells us everything we need to know about leaving a dog unattended in the elements day and night. It's a sure way to create a violent creature.

To the benefit of all, Texas lawmakers acknowledged this problem in passing a law that limits the amount of time dogs can be chained or tethered.

The new law provides a Class C misdemeanor on the first offense and a Class B misdemeanor on subsequent violations. The dog can't be chained between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and can't be teathered for more than three consecutive hours during the day.

This is going to cause some scrambling for people who don't have fenced backyards or other ways to contain their dogs. Most certainly it's going to raise the stakes for owning dogs. But, be honest, too many people take lightly the responsibilities and humane considerations that come with owning a pet.

It's true that the law has some odd wrinkles that will make it hard to enforce. We don't expect officers to be out on dog patrol in the wee hours enforcing the 10 p.m.-6 a.m. rule.

The law also has loopholes such as an exemption for owners who restrain their pets on "trolley systems" that allow dogs to move along a clothesline-like line.

This year Texas took several strides to stem animal cruelty. Out ahead of the atrocities linked to NFL star Michael Vick, state lawmakers increased the penalty for dogfighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a



state jail felony. Those who attend dogfights also would face increased penalties.

Another new law assigns criminal negligence to the owner of a vicious dog that attacks a human being.

A dog owner who knows his or her dog is dangerous can be charged with a second-degree felony in a mauling death.

People who chain and neglect their animals now are forewarned that the law will treat them with a short leash.

#### Comments

By Monica

Sep 5, 2007 1:57 PM | [Link to this](#)

Exactly -- there is simply no compelling reason to have a dog if the only way you can keep it is to stake it in the yard and leave it there in the baking sun, the rain, the cold -- with nothing but fleas, ticks and relentless boredom for company. Perpetual chaining is probably one of the worst forms of abuse for a social, intelligent, pack animal like a dog. Where did people go wrong in allowing it in the first place?

By Dennis Vail

Sep 4, 2007 5:44 PM | [Link to this](#)

Kudos to Texas for being in the forefront of the chained-dog issue. We had a case in Silsbee recently where a dog broke free of its chain and attacked two young children. It is well known that chaining a dog makes it more territorial and more aggressive, besides being cruel to the dog. Many municipalities, including Texas City, have already adopted anti-chaining ordinances, some of which are more stringent than Texas' new statute. But this is an issue on which leadership is sorely needed.

Dennis Vail  
Beaumont

By jim

Sep 4, 2007 10:32 AM | [Link to this](#)

Maybe I just don't get it, but why on Earth would anyone want a dog if they had it chained up all the time. What is the point? If your dog won't stay in your yard either train it or build a better fence or give it to someone who can do both. Dogs are not yard ornaments.

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From Gainesville Times (Georgia)

Oct. 13 or 14, 2007

## Tails wagging over city's ban on dog chains

Local officials say Gainesville's ban on chaining dogs has, for the most part, worked well.

The ban went into effect one month ago after a 90-day grace period, intended to give dog owners time to comply, ended.

Since the City Council adopted the ban June 5, other communities' leaders have called Rick Aiken, director at the Humane Society, to see how the ban is working and how the Humane Society got the ban passed in Gainesville.

"I very quickly tell them it's because we have a tremendous City Council that believes in certain things, and they were very, very supportive of what we proposed to them," Aiken said.

The Gainesville City Council voted 4-1 to ban tethering dogs in the city. Councilwoman Myrtle Figueras was the only dissenter.

Aiken said he respected Figueras' opinion that the ban would create unintended consequences, such as forcing people to get rid of their dogs for lack of ability to afford a fence.

"That's what she was elected for, to vote what she feels," Aiken said.

Yet, Aiken says that cost is a part of the responsibility of having a pet.

"My argument there: If Rick Aiken is driving down the road with no taillights and I'm pulled over and the officer tells me I've got to get them fixed and I tell him 'well, I can't afford it' he's going to tell me I've got to park my car," Aiken said.

"I don't like comparing animals and machinery, but you know, it's a responsibility, not a right, to own a pet," Aiken said. "You have to provide certain things, and if you can't provide those things, then you shouldn't get one."

Aiken said the Humane Society has received several calls about violations to the ordinance in the past month. He said no one has really complained about the financial burden of building a fence, but a couple of dog owners refused to change their ways.

Rick Phillips, chief of Gainesville-Hall Animal Control, said two citations had been issued since the ban went into effect, along with about 12 warnings.

He said Animal Control officers who respond to complaints try to educate the dog owner. Most people officers have talked to have been gracious in complying with the ordinance.

On a second complaint, Phillips said, owners are given 10 days to comply. If owners still refuse, officers issue a citation for them to appear in municipal court.

Phillips said he always tries to work with people with financial difficulties, but he had been pleasantly surprised with how residents have complied with the month-old ban.

The two citations were issued to people who refused to make an effort and follow the ordinance. Aiken said that the Humane Society started pushing for the ordinance after people called to complain about tethered dogs.

"We felt like the time was right to do something," Aiken said.

He said he has had many sad experiences with tethered dogs.

Some neglected and chained animals have come into the Humane Society with collars grown into their necks. He heard about one girl killed by a chained dog, and another Gainesville dog chained to a porch fell off and hung itself.

"It's no way for an animal to live," Aiken said.

"They're companion animals, they're social," he added. "You put them on a chain and just walk out and throw food and water down, that's existing. That's not living."

Chained dogs are more likely to bite humans, Aiken said. To see another animal run by and not be able to chase it teases the dog, and it can become frustrated. A frustrated dog becomes much more aggressive than a dog that can run, Aiken said.

Also, having a chained dog creates an aesthetic problem for the city. Dogs confined to one spot tend to destroy the grass, creating a bald spot in the yard.

"It's not a very pretty sight," Aiken said.

Aiken encourages people to report offenders to Animal Control, because pets are living creatures that need looking out for.

"I can't imagine living like that," Aiken said. "There may be quantity of life in some of these, but there's no quality of life."

# DESERET Morning News

## Laws against tethering dogs are 'no-brainers'

By Matthew Margolis

Published: August 10, 2006

California is considering a law (SB1578, Sen. Alan Lowenthal, D-CA) that would make it a crime to tether a dog for more than three hours a day to a fixed object. The violation would be a misdemeanor that would require fines of up to \$1000 per dog and six months in jail.

Other anti-tethering legislation is being considered elsewhere in the states of Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania. Communities throughout North America the United States are also considering laws that ban or limit chaining. They include: Chicago, Ill.; Danville, Va.; Bloomington, Ind.; Gainesville, Fla.; and Burnaby, B.C. British Columbia. Laws that limit or ban inhumane tethering have been passed in: Baker, La.; Creve Coeur, Mo.; Dodge City, Kan.; and Columbus, Ga., among others.

Anti-chaining and anti-tethering laws are "no brainers" as far as I am concerned. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tell us that chained dogs are three times more likely to bite than nontethered dogs. Beyond that, how can anyone disagree that tethering is animal cruelty? I don't think a dog should be tethered for any reason, unless it is while being groomed or for a short period of time for the dog's protection in certain environments. If you can't provide an adequate environment for a dog, like a fence, kennel or dog run, then you should reconsider getting a dog.

Tethering a dog has more negatives than positives. They often become frustrated, anti-social for the most part, and they develop compulsive behaviors like pacing and excessive barking. Dogs are territorial by nature, regardless of their temperament. Tethering increases territorial aggression. The dog is basically trapped without the ability to deal with the world around him or anything that he might perceive as a danger. So everything becomes a danger — including approaching animals or humans.

There are those who oppose anti-tethering legislation, saying they have concerns about people who work or that tethering is not a cause of aggression. But chaining or tying up dogs does contribute to aggressive behavior, often with terrible consequences. Since the beginning of this year there have been many cases of the devastating mauling of children by chained dogs in the Carolinas, California, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio and no doubt others. Chained dogs have killed children in Oklahoma, Missouri and Virginia — all since the beginning of 2006. If you want to get a complete picture of why dogs should not be tethered, visit a website that promises to open your eyes about the cruelty and consequences of tethering dogs. Go to [www.unchainyourdog.org](http://www.unchainyourdog.org).

Of course, when there is an incident of a tethered dog that bites, those who do not understand dog behavior will blame the breed. Those who are in favor of allowing tethering will blame the aggression on other things like lack of socialization or the dog's temperament. Aggression is caused by a lot of things, and chaining or tethering dogs is the foul-tasting frosting on this bitter cake.

So what are the restrictions imposed in California's SB1578? It would restrict tethering, yet allow dogs to be attached to running lines and pulleys. Dogs could also be restrained in parks and recreational areas for limited amounts of time. My question to legislators everywhere when it comes to anti-tethering laws: What are you waiting for?

Don't forget to enter your dog in our cash-award contest before August 1. Submit a picture and a paragraph about "How Your Dog Has Changed Your Life." Rules and prizes are detailed on my website, and there is a handy online entry form that lets you publish your own submission. Visit my online magazine, The Woof Gazette, at [www.unclematty.com](http://www.unclematty.com).

Woof!

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*Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's Life!" Send your questions to*

# Charleston Daily Mail

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## Charleston officials say dog ordinance is paying off

**Matthew Thompson**

Daily Mail staff

Friday August 31, 2007

City Council members say they're pleased that a new ordinance applied in the case of a Charleston woman who had dogs improperly chained on her property.

"We won't tolerate animal cruelty in the city," said Councilwoman Mary Jean Davis. "This ordinance proves that."

Earlier this month, Danielle DiGiorgi of Coral Drive was arrested. Police say 13 pit bulls were found neglected and mistreated on her property.

Authorities speculate the pit bulls may have been in training for dog fighting after finding evidence on the scene, including an apparatus that could be used to build up a dog's jaw muscles. DiGiorgi has not been reached for comment, but her lawyer has said the charges are false.

DiGiorgi was charged with 24 counts associated with animal cruelty, but was not charged with dog fighting.

Some of the charges came under a dog-chaining ordinance the city passed in June.

A few of the dogs on the scene were chained to doghouses and were out of reach of food and water dishes, officials have said.

The new ordinance states a dog may not be chained for more than two continuous hours or more than five times in 24-hour period. Also when the temperature outside is 90 degrees or higher, a dog cannot be tethered for more than one hour and the tether must be at least 10 feet long.

Davis was one of the council members who originally introduced the ordinance in the council's Public Safety Committee in June.

Davis said dog fighting was never discussed when council drew up the bill.

Dog fighting has been in the national spotlight since NFL superstar Michael Vick was investigated after dog-fighting equipment was found at a home he owned.

Last week, he pled guilty to federal dog fighting charges and is awaiting sentencing.

Davis said rumors about dog fighting in Charleston have been circulating for a couple of years.

Charleston Humane Officer Clarence Carte said the DiGiorgi case was the first dog fighting-related complaint this year.

An unidentified neighbor tipped off Carte to the conditions of dogs.

With the issue in the spotlight, Carte expects an increase in calls from the public about dog fighting.

"I've always been vigilant when I get a complaint about dog fighting," Carte said. "Some pan out and some don't. Each case is different."

Davis said if more evidence of possible dog fighting the city comes to light, she would like to see City Council take on the issue.

"It's always better to have an ordinance in place before a situation arises," Davis said. "But heaven knows you can't prevent everything. I just don't want to think about dog fighting in the city of Charleston."

At-large Councilman Will Hanna said the dog fighting issue would be tackled by council if the need arises.

Hanna is the chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

As of right now, Hanna said the tethering ordinance is sufficient in curbing animal cruelty cases.

"It shows you it's a good law and there is a need for it," Hanna said. "I think animal cruelty on all fronts is something that needs to be addressed and I'm glad we are enforcing this issue."

At-Large Councilman Harry Deitzler said a combination of the ordinance and police presence is essential in curbing animal cruelty issues.

"Everybody is working together to address these problems," Deitzler said. "The animal ordinance helped and the active police presence helped. They're all crucial factors in helping us address these concerns."

Contact writer Matthew Thompson at [matthewthompson@dailymail.com](mailto:matthewthompson@dailymail.com) or 348-4834.

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 PRINT THIS

Unchain that dog, new state law says

Friday, August 31, 2007

**By David Doerr**

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Starting Saturday, leaving Fido chained to a stake in the ground day and night will be punishable as a misdemeanor that could land repeat offenders in jail and cost them up to \$2,000 in fines.

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The new state law, just one of more than 650 that will go into effect Sept. 1, is designed to put teeth into efforts to stop a neglectful practice that turns dogs vicious, proponents say.

The anti-tethering law and a clutch of other measures targeting animal cruelty marked a significant step forward in combating inhumane treatment during the last legislative session, local animal welfare advocates said.

“I am so in support of any tool that law enforcement can have related to animal cruelty, and tethering is animal cruelty,” said Carrie Kuehl, chairwoman of the city’s animal control advisory board. “People can’t handle being chained or restricted to very small environments even if they are able to see all the way around them. People can’t handle that and animals

can’t either.”

Stationary tethering makes dogs territorial, irritated and aggressive, which can sometimes lead to severe, if not deadly, attacks if they ever get loose or someone wanders into their space, she said.

Karen Froehlich, executive director of the Waco Humane Society, said some owners tether their animals intentionally to make them mean as a security measure for their homes. Others do it because they say they can’t afford fencing.

But it’s a horrendous life for the dog, she said.

“They feel very exposed and they don’t see any way they can get to protect themselves,” she said.

The state law, which provides a Class C misdemeanor offense on the first offense and a Class B misdemeanor on subsequent violations, will provide Waco with its first-ever restrictions on tethering after an effort to pass a city ordinance stalled last year.

However, the law does not provide for a complete prohibition on tethering. Primarily, the measure bans tethering between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. It also limits the practice to not exceed three hours during a 24-hour period.

Clare Crook, the Waco Police Department assistant chief who oversees animal control, said the new anti-tethering law will provide her officers with another tool to crack down on neglect cases that can lead to public safety problems.

But the provisions of the law that ban tethering at night could be difficult to enforce because her five animal control officers typically work during the day, she said.

<http://cox.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Unchain+that+dog%2C+new+state+law+say...> 9/4/2007

Unchain that dog, new state law says

“Can we use it? Yeah,” Crook said. “Are we going to be out there in the middle of the night looking to see if Grandma Moses has Pookey on a tether? It’s another tool. Will we use it? Absolutely.”

Crook said she hopes the new law doesn’t create a false impression that animal control officers will be present 24 hours a day searching for scofflaws.

“With staffing levels, most of our calls come in Monday through Friday eight to five,” she said. “Our priorities are dog bites and vicious animals. Will we use the tethering law? Absolutely. But is it something that you call 9-1-1 on? No. They can call and report it and the officers will drop by, but not on 9-1-1.”

And although the new law is an improvement over having nothing in place, it is not perfect, animal welfare advocates say. One of the weaknesses is a provision that exempts owners from the law that restrain their pets on “trolley systems” that allow dogs to move along a clothesline-like line.

Froehlich, from the Waco Humane Society, said her organization does not condone any kind of unattended tethering.

“(Using a trolley system) would be the better option for those three hours if they have do it,” she said. “But the fence or bringing the pets inside is the what we would approve of.”

Erin Colletti, legislative assistant to state Rep. George “Buddy” West, R-Odessa, who authored the anti-tethering law, said she believed it was the most comprehensive and strict such measure in the country. Only California, Connecticut, Virginia and West Virginia have similar laws.

“We feel like there are some lines in (the law) that we want to change, but we do feel like it is a really good start,” she said. “It is the first of its kind in Texas. A lot of people in the animal community are impressed that it is here.”

Colletti said she understands the difficulty of enforcing the law at night but believes it is important to have a set period when tethering is outlawed to make it meaningful.

“How else are we going to fix the problem?” she said. “This is about public safety. We have had four deaths in Texas in 2007 where children walked up on tethered dogs who got mauled to death.”

Patt Nordyke, executive director of the Texas Federation of Humane Societies, who worked closely with Colletti to craft the anti-tethering law, said Texas animals had a very successful legislative session.

Other new animal-cruelty laws protect stray dogs and cats from abuse and increase the penalty for dogfighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony. The punishment for attending a dogfight also increased from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor.

Another law, which came in response to the 2005 mauling death of a Thorndale woman, makes the owner of a vicious dog that attacks a human criminally negligent. A dog owner who knows his or her dog is dangerous can be charged with a second-degree felony in a mauling death of a person.

Although some criticized the law for being overly harsh on a first-time incident, Nordyke fired back that “you are just as dead the first time those animals attack as you would be the second time.”

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## State law to break chain of dog abuse

**By Penny Rathbun, Staff writer**

(Created: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 9:15 PM CDT)

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Beginning next month, a state law prohibiting the chaining or tethering of dogs under certain conditions will go into effect.

The animal control division of The Colony Police Department plans to strictly enforce the new law. The division is now enforcing a city ordinance that prohibits tethering and chaining of dogs, but they will revert to the new state law because it is more comprehensive.

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 821 prohibits dogs being tied up, chained or tethered under any of the following conditions:

- \*Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.;
- \*Within 500 feet of school property;
- \*When the temperatures is below 32 degrees; and,
- \*When a heat advisory or ozone alert has been issued.

Restrained using a pinch or choke collar or an improperly fitting nylon collar.

"If you look at all of the severe animal attacks like the ones that you see where the vicious pit bulls have mangled the small children, more than 90 percent of those are dogs that have been tied up and then broken free and gone after someone," said Tricia Barrington, manager of the animal control division of The Colony Police Department.

Barrington understands the need to tether or chain a dog for a short time on a temporary basis, but not around the clock. "It just breeds frustration," she said. "The way that dogs oftentimes display that is by becoming aggressive because that chain link or that tether link, that's their only area and anything that comes close to that is a threat to them. It's also defensive because they don't have any way when they are chained or tethered to get away from predators like the coyotes or other dogs that might run loose."

She said when a dog is tied up there is usually not a fence to keep other animals away from them. She added that dogs tied up for 10 to 12 hours a day or longer are much less social than dogs that are kept in a pen or an enclosure.

Barrington said she is glad the state law prohibits the chaining and tethering of dogs within 500 feet of school property.

"I think it will decrease the number of bites that we get, especially before and after school. Because those are your peak times for dog bites, between 7 and 8 in the morning and between 3 and 5 in the afternoon."

She referred to the boy in The Colony last year who was riding his bike in an alley close to a school. He was bitten by a dog that was usually on a chain and had broken free. "It wasn't an animal that was intended to be a pet and it should never have happened," she said.

The new law will allow police to go to houses that are close to schools with dogs tethered or chained and tell the owners "to get a better fence or find something else to do with the dog."

Barrington said that members of her division are willing to work with someone who may not be in

compliance with the law if they ask for help. She said they realize coming into compliance with the law may take more than 10 or 12 hours.

Her division also has doghouses and food and water dishes available for a few people who may not be able to afford them. They can also help pet owners find what they need at a reasonable cost. "We would love it if you would approach us before we have to approach you," she said.

Animal control division staff members will also help people by checking to make sure their dogs have the correct type of collar that fits properly. They will advise pet owners on how they can solve some of their problems with their dogs, such as digging and jumping fences.

"Call us if you need us to help you with anything," Barrington said. "We're helping to get the word out and it won't be a problem. Most people are happy to do what's in the best interests of their pet and every once in a while you'll meet some resistance, but it's just part of the job."

Those who see a dog that is being chained or tethered in poor conditions should report it to the animal control division in the city they are in. Barrington said callers need to be able to provide a specific address and describe the conditions the animal is in.

She said that for the most part pet owners in The Colony know how to treat their animals. "For the folks who keep their animals in a less desirable fashion, I can almost guarantee you that at least one of their neighbors is horrified by that and they make us aware of it."

Barrington said there have been no validated reports of dog fighting in The Colony. She said there are some situations that might be heading in that direction, but so far there have been no credible reports of dog fighting in The Colony.

To receive help in coming into compliance with the new law or report an animal being tethered or chained or treated improperly, call the animal control division of The Colony Police Department at 972-370-9250.

"Our goal is go get everyone in The Colony in compliance with this by November and have a bit of a better condition for the dogs in our community by that time," Barrington said.

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## State Law Limiting Dog Chaining Modeled on L.A. Ordinance

Los Angeles Times  
September 27, 2006

SACRAMENTO -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill today outlawing the chaining of dogs for more than three hours a day, saying the new law will help prevent dog attacks.

Animal rights groups sponsored the bill, arguing that chained dogs often don't get adequate food, water or medical attention and are more likely to bite people because they are not socialized and cannot flee perceived threats.

The governor's signature makes California the second state, after Connecticut, to limit dog tethering. The new law is modeled after a city of Los Angeles ordinance.

"This bill helps protect dogs from cruelty," said Schwarzenegger in a statement, "and enhances public safety by preventing aggressive animal behavior that can result from inhumane tethering."

The governor, the owner of two dogs, signed the bill despite the opposition of policy advisors who called it unnecessary.

The legislation, SB 1578 by Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), takes effect in January. It makes it a misdemeanor — punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail — to tie, chain or tether a dog for more than three hours a day. The law makes exceptions for dogs tied to running lines and pulley systems, used for hunting or herding sheep or cattle and those staying in campgrounds.

Roughly 80 cities or counties in the U.S. have passed similar ordinances, including Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles ordinance is more strict than the new state law. It allows no exception for running lines or pulley systems, said Ed Boks, general manager of the city's Department of Animal Services.

"We have found in Los Angeles that dogs are three times more likely to be involved in a biting situation if they are tethered," he said.

Roughly half of all children are bitten by dogs by the age of 12, said Boks.

"This is a real tool for animal care and control officers," he said. "It's a real tool, too, in helping people understand the value of their own pets. A tethered pet typically doesn't get the love and attention of a household pet."

Pam Runquist, a spokeswoman for California Animal Assn., the coalition of 15 animal rights groups that sponsored the bill, said she understood that some families might not be able to afford a fence so an exception was made for dogs on a running line or pulley system.

Such methods of confinement are not ideal, she said, but allow a dog more movement than chaining.

"This is really a precedent-setting measure, in that we are banning [tethering] for other than short periods of times and demonstrating that California really cares about the treatment of our dogs," said Runquist.

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Posted on Tue, Aug. 21, 2007

# Dog-restraint law called good enforcement tool

By DAVE FERMAN

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Fred Sanderson is looking forward to Sept. 1.

On that day, a new canine-restraint law passed by the Legislature takes effect. Sanderson, Irving's animal services supervisor, will then have what he calls a great new tool to help stop pet owners from staking their dogs out all night, or in the summer heat, or when the temperature drops below freezing. Owners will also be prohibited from using pinch or choke collars on a tether, he said.

"It's a great thing," Sanderson said. "It will take a few months to educate people that habitually tether their animals, but we believe 95 percent of people will come into voluntary compliance."

Animal experts said they oppose tying up dogs because it frightens the animals. The dogs know they can't escape danger. The restraint can also make dogs more aggressive and likely to bite people.

"This is going to help us," said Lawrence Hopkins, Grapevine's animal control supervisor. "This gives us another tool to enforce the laws to give animals a better quality of life. This will mean people will be responsible for the welfare of the animal."

Violating the law will be a Class C misdemeanor, punishable with a fine up to \$500. Sanderson and Hopkins said the first step will involve notifying a violator in writing. People who do not comply will be issued a citation.

Supporters hope the new law will discourage dogfighting, said Jay Sabatucci, regional program manager for the Southwest regional office of the Humane Society of the United States. The law will give animal control officers a reason to inspect a place where dogs are restrained.

"It gives them probable cause to let someone knock on the door and say, 'It looks like there's a violation -- can I look closer? Can I look at the collar?'" Sabatucci said.

Tethered dogs are usually more aggressive than those that aren't, he said.

"There's proof of that," he said. "An animal that gets off a chain is more likely to bite someone than an animal that gets off the porch. There's a lack of socialization. Most people who chain a dog can't afford a fence; the dog is a burglar alarm. The reason those animals are aggressive is they're chained up all day. How would you like it?"

But the new law also has its detractors. Laura Datkus, a Grayson County resident who owns three American pit bull terriers and a chow, said that while she agrees with parts of the law, including banning pinch collars, she finds fault with some details.

"I don't feel the law should take away a method that some dogs require to be safe and healthy and confined," said Datkus, a member of the Lone Star State American Pit Bull Terrier Club. She says that some people will simply stop tethering their dogs. The dogs could then get past a fence and "we'll have more complaints about pit bulls running loose."

More critical is Mary Beth Duerler, executive director of the San Antonio-based Responsible Pet Owners Alliance, who says the law is "completely unenforceable."

"It won't have an effect on anything," Duerler said. "Are you going to stand out there all hours of the day? It's not productive, and it won't serve any purpose."

Debra Brantner, supervisor of animal services in Eules, agrees that the parts of the law that involve time limits may cause a headache for officers. Neighbors may argue over what time a dog was restrained or for how long.

"Overall, any animal control professional will say it's a great law," she said, "but nothing is perfect. I do see where there could be issues about the time limit. It could come down to one person's word against another."

Sanderson said he is not worried about making cases against people violating the law. If he's concerned that a dog is being kept out in adverse conditions or all night, he said he can make spot checks.

Like several others, Sabatucci notes that the law is open to interpretation. In several places, it contains such terms as "reasonably" or "unreasonably." He is hoping that the courts will stringently interpret the law to give it more impact.

"We can sell it as a public safety issue, and it improves the quality of life of the animals," he said.

#### DOG LAW

A new dog law takes effect Sept. 1. It prohibits pet owners from using pinch or choke collars or tying up their dogs outside:

Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Within 500 feet of a school.

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## Bylaw additions protect dogs

By SARAH ARTIS

Aug 15 2007

AS A RESULT of one woman speaking out against cruel treatment of dogs, the city has adjusted its laws to demand better care for the animals.

Terrace's animal control bylaw now bans owners from tethering dogs, meaning tying or chaining them to a stationery object or running line, for more than an hour.

Moreso, owners are now required by law to provide the most basic adequate care for their dogs including clean water and food, exercise, adequate housing and medical attention.

Terrace resident Donna Rivet, who presented 23 pages of her own research on why dogs need proper care and how to provide it to city council March 26, is exhilarated with the changes.

"Excellent," she said repeatedly when told the news. "Excellent. They did really good." "I think that makes Terrace a better place to be," she added.

Rivet initially approached council because she was concerned about dogs left tethered and alone for hours on end.

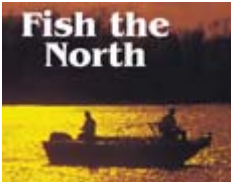
Her neighbour's dog suffered like this and barked constantly



THANKS to the efforts of one woman, the animal control bylaw has been altered to ensure dogs have



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because, as she put it, he was lonely and bored.

healthy, happy lives. SARAH ARTIS PHOTO

She considered this a matter of animal cruelty, public safety, public nuisance, public expense, public health and lawlessness.

Research shows dogs that are ignored and kept tied up are more likely to lash out, bite and bark.

City animal control officer Tammy McLean said the city had considered changing the bylaw before but never had the evidence to back it up.

Once Rivet demanded action, however, McLean did more research on other municipalities' legislation and went from there.

"It made sense," McLean said.

Terrace's new laws are heavily based on those of the City of Burnaby in the Lower Mainland.

At this time, the city has no plans to increase staff for enforcement.

"It's going to be more of an education program," McLean said. "People thought for a long time it was a good thing to tie up your dog. Now we have to readjust their thinking, get them on the same page."

The city plans to produce a brochure with care tips and leave it at houses that are the basis of complaints.

"We are hoping with (the new laws), we will be able to calm the majority of barking complaints we get," she said.

Rivet added, "Even if you don't have the manpower to reinforce everything, the expectation is there."

"This is the minimum standard to keep an animal," she said. "Just the fact that it exists teaches a minimum standard of care. A lot of people don't know better."

Other changes to the animal control bylaw include the addition of a \$10 fee to recover impounded cats and other small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs, and small updates to do with livestock allowances.

Some property were considered big enough to now have large livestock, McLean said.

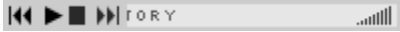
The city also plans to post four new brightly coloured signs on Ferry Island that clearly indicate on- and off-leash areas.

McLean said dogs were the focus of the changes because the city dealt with them the most.



# Inland News

## Authorities say two dogs in Murrieta die from heat



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10:00 PM PDT on Thursday, August 30, 2007

By **SARAH BURGE**  
The Press-Enterprise

Two dogs died from the heat Wednesday in Murrieta in two separate cases of owners leaving their pets chained outside with inadequate shade and water, authorities said.

With excessive heat warnings in effect this week for the area, it's more important than ever to not leave pets in cars or exposed outside, said Willa Bagwell, director of Animal Friends of the Valleys, which provides animal control services to Murrieta and other southwest Riverside County cities. It is illegal to chain an animal or to fail to provide adequate shelter and water, Bagwell said.

Animal control officers received a report Wednesday that two dogs left outside in Murrieta in very hot weather were in distress and "that the dogs were screaming," Bagwell said.

When officers arrived, one dog, a 1-year-old female pit bull mix, was dead. Her temperature was 109 degrees, Bagwell said, and she had been so desperate to reach water that her chain was wrapped five times around her neck.

"They panic," Bagwell said. "It was a terrible death."

The other dog, which was in a more shaded area, received veterinary care and appears to be OK, Bagwell said.

The owner said he hadn't left the dogs for long, but according to the vet who examined them, the dogs had been there for at least three hours, Bagwell said.

Later in the day, officers received yet another report of a dog left chained in the heat. That dog, which appeared to be a Labrador retriever, also died, Bagwell said.

Bagwell said she is seeking charges against the owners for animal cruelty, neglect and illegal chaining. Their names and addresses were not available Thursday.

Bagwell said officers are finding lately that even when pet owners provide a dish of water, it is inadequate. The average stainless steel dish gets too hot, is too small and is too easily overturned, she said. In this kind of heat, Bagwell said, owners should leave a large tub of water for dogs that must be left outside.

Reach Sarah Burge at 951-375-3736 or [sburge@PE.com](mailto:sburge@PE.com)



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## City toughens animal control ordinance

MJ Kneiser, WNEG Radio, special to the Anderson Independent-Mail  
Wednesday, August 29, 2007

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TOCCOA, Ga. — The City of Toccoa is taking steps to secure the safety and well-being of its animals, particularly dogs.

This week, city commissioners granted preliminary approval to amendments to the current animal control ordinance.

The move comes after numerous complaints from citizens regarding animal neglect in their neighborhoods and the number of stray dogs on city streets.

Earlier this summer, commissioners appointed a group of citizens to research the problems and make recommendations.

City Manager Billy Morse attended a City Commission meeting Monday night and provided an outline of proposed amendments regarding adequate food, shelter, space and water for animals. The amendments include:

- n Penalties of up to \$1,000 or six months in prison are established.
- n A dog must be under an owner's control, meaning the animal cannot run at large.
- n It shall be unlawful to restrain an animal by tether, rope, chain, etc.
- n Neglect and cruelty against animals and dog fighting are prohibited.
- n Force can be used by law enforcement officers to remove an animal that is locked in a closed



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vehicle when temperatures outside are 80 degrees or above.

n Animals must be safely secured when transported.

Commissioner Bob Troup objected to the tethering amendment, but later agreed to it when it was explained that the move applied to dogs kept tied up at all times with no access to water, food and proper shelter. The proposed change would not apply to tethering for short periods.

In a related move, the City Commission also adopted the rules of the Georgia Department of Agriculture animal protection division. The division deals with the operation of animal shelters, kennels, pet dealers and stables.

The move will allow the city to enforce state law with regard to humane treatment of animals, according to Mr. Morse. Animal control officers now will have the authority to write citations to citizens in violation of the animal control ordinance.

"We think the new rules and regulations will give the animal control officers the resources they need to do their job better," Mr. Morse said. "Right now, the ordinance is too loose and allows for too much discrepancy and interpretation. These amendments that have been proposed will clearly define what is a shelter, that you have to have adequate food, shelter, water, and space to roam."

Research committee spokeswoman Angie Garland praised the city and the commission's work.

"There are a few things that will need to be reworded or explained a little better, but by adopting the Georgia Animal Protection Act, that's a start," Ms. Garland said. "We are just delighted, and the city seems to be very, very responsive."

Ms. Garland said she hopes the county will adopt a similar ordinance.

A second reading and final of the suggested ordinance changes will take place at the next city commission meeting on Sept. 10.

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## Virginia News

# Richmond may limit chain time for pets

By Tara Morgan, NBC12 News

Richmond leaders are considering a new measure that would limit the amount of time a pet may be chained up. The proposed anti-chaining law, if passed, would allow pet owners to keep their dog chained for one hour a day.

Animal experts say chaining dogs for long periods can lead to aggressive behavior or even death.

Until recently, five-year-old Memphis was on the verge of death. The pit bull mix was found chained outside a Richmond home, unattended and in grave condition.

Memphis isn't the only rescued dog on the mend at Richmond Animal Care and Control.

One lab mix had an embedded collar surgically removed from its neck after being left chained up so long.

"On average we see anywhere from two to four severe cruelty cases a month, and those can be something as mild as an animal being left in the yard unattended and can be as severe as the case like Memphis," said Jody Jones.

Councilman Doug Conner's proposed law would make it illegal to chain or tether a dog for more than one hour in a 24-hour period. Dog owners would also be required to give their pets adequate space to live.

"We're not looking for people that abuse that for 20 or 30 minutes," Conner said. "We're looking for the person who leaves dogs in the yard constantly and becomes an aggressive situation."

At Richmond's Barker Field, dog owners say man's best friend should be treated as a pet and not a possession.

"It's ridiculous for anyone to leave their dog outside," said Lindsay Fisher. "Even three hours would be pushing it for me to have to think about my dog sitting outside barking at everything he can't get to 'cause he's chained up somewhere."

Richmond's proposal is modeled after tether laws in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, where residents can't chain their dogs for more than three hours at a time. Richmond City Council will likely vote on the proposal in late September.

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Story Created: Jul 24, 2007 at 8:16 AM EDT

<http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Richmond+may+limit+chain+time+for+p...> 8/21/2007

# WSOCTV.com

## Boy Found Mauled Dies At Hospital

POSTED: 10:45 pm EDT September 25, 2007

UPDATED: 6:26 am EDT September 26, 2007



**LINCOLNTON, N.C.** -- A 2-year-old Lincolnton boy, who was mauled by two dogs, died shortly after the attack.

Lincoln County sheriff's deputies said the toddler wandered away from his relatives' home at around 4:45 p.m. Tuesday.

The family searched for the young boy for about 15 minutes before calling 911.

Deputies went door to door in the neighborhood, but eventually found the critically injured boy in a wooded area in a neighbor's yard.

The boy was tangled in a dog's chain, and had two German Shepherds standing over him.

Deputies said he was viciously attacked and died shortly after he arrived at the hospital. Both dogs were chained up and have been taken by animal control.

Family and friends rushed to the hospital, only to hear the heart-breaking news.

"All I can tell the family is I'm sorry. There's nothing I can say. I can't even tell them I understand, because I can't even begin to understand," said Chad Reinhart, a family friend.




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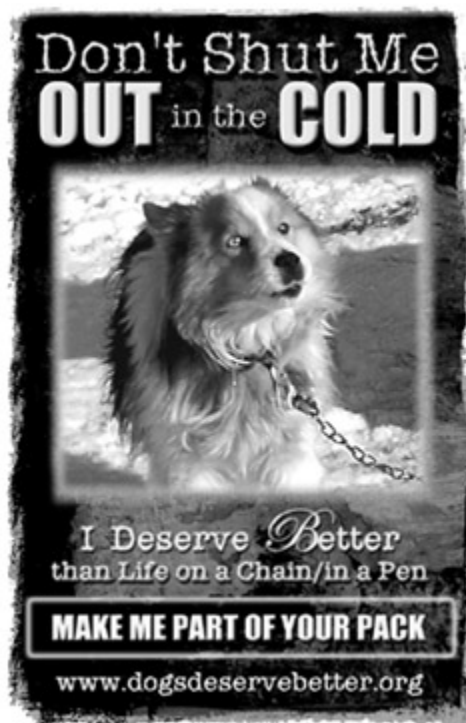


**Dogs Site**

**Sandy Moyer**

BellaOnline's Dogs Editor

**Living As Prisoners ... Longing to be Pets**



Many dogs spend their whole lives in "solitary confinement," fastened by the neck to the end of a chain. "Chaining" or "tethering" a dog .... fastening a dog to the end of a chain or tether that's attached to a tree, a dog house, a stake in the ground, or other stationary object ... is a cruel, inhumane practice that's all too common.

Sometimes people who shouldn't have a dog in the first place get upset when a new dog does not become instantly house trained. Instead of one person at a time being responsible for watching the dog and taking it outside at regular intervals, there is a daily blame game. The carpet gets soiled because no one bothered to take the dog out. A dog needs attention and becomes bored and destructive without it. A young dog needs chew toys and chews anything within reach when it has none. The dog sheds too much but no one takes time to brush him. Eventually everyone decides that it's all the dog's fault and that dog becomes an "outside dog"... out of sight... out of mind. Since no one could spare five minutes every few hours while the dog was inside, no one will take the time to buy or build a secure fenced area for the dog

after it's outside either. Everyone is too consumed with all the important things in their busy lives to worry about a dog who is no longer a cute little puppy anyway. A chain is a cheap, instant means of confinement.

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Pet owners who have their dogs chained outside 24/7 might say the confinement is temporary, until they have more time to deal with house breaking problems and other lack of training. But... being chained leads to more behavior problems. It forces dogs to walk through puddles of urine and defecate in the same area where they must eat and live day after day. That destroys their natural instinct to eliminate away from their living space. People might say they are waiting until the dog matures and settles down, but since dogs desperately want to be with the people they love, young active dogs become hyperactive when isolated. They become frantic for attention and when they see people they react by wildly jumping up and down, far too happy and excited to listen to commands. Since that kind of behavior makes them difficult to approach, they never get to enjoy the pats, hugs, belly rubs, playing fetch and physical attention other dogs thrive on. Being chained can also discourage coming when called and encourage running away, since some dogs who are finally released from the torture of a chain will want to run as far and as fast as they can to avoid being chained again.

Other people might justify subjecting their dog to life on a chain by claiming the dog will protect their property and alert them to trespassers. The problem there is that many chained dogs, out of boredom, will bark at almost anything that moves. They often bark at anyone they see, hoping to get attention. Although the barking of an outside dog will disturb the neighbors, everyone becomes so used to the noise that they wouldn't notice if the dog were barking at a real intruder. The sound of a barking dog inside a house might scare a potential thief away, but a barking dog who is securely chained outside is no threat.

Some dog owners simply do not realize the consequences of chaining a dog. Because it's done so often they just assume it's acceptable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), The Humane Society of the United States, and many other humane organizations have issued statements against the practice of chaining or tethering dogs.

**Chaining is not okay. Chaining is cruel and here are some of the reasons why....**

- Perhaps the most compelling reason why a dog should not live outside is because dogs are loving, sociable beings. They live for and crave love, attention, and companionship from their humans. Dogs who must live outside, alone, on the end of a chain, suffer immense psychological and emotional trauma.

- Chained dogs can't escape if they're attacked. They can be attacked by roaming dogs and other animals. If they do survive the wounds, dogs who are victims of attacks by raccoons or other possibly rabid animals must often be euthanized. Since dogs who



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live their lives outside have usually not been immunized, they have no protection against rabies or other preventable diseases.

- A chained dog can't escape if it's being hurt by people. Some kids will tease, torment, and bully a chained dog. Misguided kids who think violence is cool may intentionally hurt a helpless dog while trying to impress other kids. Sleepless, angry neighbors, annoyed by constant barking and howling, might decide to eliminate the source of their frustration.

- Although a chained dog cannot attack a would be criminal, it could be a real danger to a small child who wanders into it's territory. Dogs eventually become anxious, agitated, even territorial and aggressive when they are constantly chained and alone. According to "Dogs Deserve Better", a nonprofit organization dedicated to freeing the chained dog, "Chaining is not only inhumane for dogs, but has taken a severe toll on this nation's children as well. In the period from October 2003 through December 2005, there were at least 62 children killed or seriously injured by chained dogs across the country."

- Many chained dogs live outside through pouring rain, frightening thunder storms, oppressive sun, heat and biting insects in summer. Chained dogs frequently spill their water, leaving them with nothing to drink for hours. Hot summer weather can be fatal to dogs without shade and not enough water. They may not have access to a warm, dry shelter in winter. Chained dogs endure bitter cold, ice and snow in winter, often without drinking water, since that's frozen. They may even suffer from frostbite.

- Chained dogs who are not spayed or neutered can mate with any roaming dog, increasing the number of unwanted dogs and adding to the problem of overcrowded shelters and dogs who must be euthanized because there's no one to love and care for them. (Spaying or neutering greatly increases a dog's health and quality of life as well.)

- When dogs' constantly pull and strain to escape confinement, depending on the type of collar they're wearing or how the collar fits, their necks can become painfully raw and covered with open sores. Their collars can become deeply embedded in their necks.

- A dog's chain can become entangled with tree branches, shrubs, or other objects and the dog can strangle to death. Chained dogs have also been accidentally hanged to death when they tried to jump over a nearby wall, fence or other structure.

- Chained dogs are easy prey for thieves looking for animals they can sell to research labs or to the vermin who buy bait animals for dog fights.

 1-2 3-5 more than 5

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Although in most localities it's still legal to chain a dog, as long as it has access to food, water and

adequate shelter, there is a nationwide trend of laws being passed to improve the quality of life of "outside" dogs. These laws either prohibit dog chaining or set a limit to the number of hours per day that a dog may be chained. Last January, the city council in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for example, made it illegal to tether dogs for more than three hours. In Cape May County, New Jersey, several municipalities have introduced ordinances regulating the outdoor chaining of dogs. "Joe's Law" is dedicated to a Boxer who froze to death after being left chained in a yard for several cold winter days. Many other governing bodies have also included tethering or chaining provisions in animal protection ordinances. See [Current Legislation on Tethering Dogs](#) to read which communities have now banned or limited tethering or chaining.

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Taking a dog for frequent walks on a leash or having a securely fenced yard are the best alternatives to tethering a dog.

If a fenced yard is impractical or unaffordable, a rectangular kennel enclosure or a fenced area where the dog can spend short periods of time a few times a day is a humane solution. For doggy escape artists, you might have to bury part of the fence underground, and have a roof or fence across the top of the run as well.

There are also ways to humanely tether a dog when necessary. For elderly dog owners who have no fenced yard and are unable to walk their pets, when the weather makes walking dangerous for anyone, or for any dog who must be kept on a tether or chain for short periods of time, attaching a tether to an overhead line or pulley run is preferable to tethering a dog to a stationary object. The dog should not be able to reach trees, outdoor furniture, or other objects the tether could become entangled with. The dog's collar should fit properly and be comfortable. Restraints should be long enough to allow the dog to move about, sit, and lie down comfortably. Never fasten a chain or tether to a choke collar or prong type collar.

Invisible, underground electronic fence or electronic training collars are another means of keeping a dog within the boundaries of your yard. This is sometimes a controversial subject but it's one solution that works well for many dog owners. It can be a practical solution when a real fence is not possible. When used properly, most dogs will never need to be corrected after the first few times. Knowing that they are wearing their correction collar will be the only reminder they'll need. Since electronic boundaries will not keep people and unrestrained animals from entering your yard, watchful supervision is always necessary with this method of restraint.

Take the time to properly house train and socialize your dog. Let your dog be a happy part of your family. The love you give will be returned ten fold.

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# WCCO-TV - Minnesota's Breaking News, Video Weather, Traffic and Sports: 7-Year-Old Boy Killed By Family's Pit Bull

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⌚ Aug 16, 2007 11:15 pm US/Central

## 7-Year-Old Boy Killed By Family's Pit Bull

*(WCCO) Minneapolis* A 7-year-old boy is dead after being attacked by his family's pit bull in Minneapolis, according to Lt. Amelia Huffman of the Minneapolis Police Department.

The attack happened at the 3500 block of Humboldt Avenue North in Minneapolis.

According to police, Zack King Jr. went to play with the family dog in the basement of his family's home when it attacked him. Police say the dog severely bit the boy in the throat.

"Certainly, you can imagine a 7-year-old child and a large adult pit bull. The nature of the injury was severe," said Huffman.

The 7-year-old's father, Zach King Sr. tried to intervene and was bitten severely on the arm. The father then shot and killed the pit bull.

Police said two girls were also in the home at the time of the attack and one of those girls called 911.

The boy was taken to North Memorial Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

The grandfather of the boy said the male pit bull, whose name was Face, was kept chained in the basement.

"I don't know if the dog turned or my grandson messed with him or what," said the boy's grandfather.

Neighbors said the 2nd grader was full of life and loved to ride his bike up and down the street.

"I hope they can get through this, cause this is really bad, tragic right here," said a neighbor.

According to the city of Minneapolis, Animal Control has had two other contacts with this family regarding the pit bull that attacked the boy. In 2005, the dog bit a trespasser on the family's property. The city considered that a "provoked bite" and it did not lead to any additional action.

In 2006, the dog left the family's yard and bit a man. Although the bite was considered minor, Animal Control officially notified the dog owner that any further incidents may lead to the dog being declared dangerous.

According to police, it was normal for the boy to play with the dog. There was another female pit bull in the home and five puppies that were not involved in the attack. Those dogs have been taken by Minneapolis Animal Control

A state report based on hospital discharge data and medical records from the Minnesota Hospital Association show a 40 percent reported increase in victims of dog bites seen in hospitals and emergency rooms in the state from 1998 to 2005.

The study, released in June, found that about 3,600 people were treated in emergency rooms in 2005, compared about 2,600 in 1998. The number of those hospitalized saw a smaller increase, from 89 in 1998 to 95 in 2005.

Three-quarters of the victims were familiar with the attacking dog, the study said.

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## New state law limits tethering of dogs to 3 hours

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### Fines, jail time among penalties

**By Brooke Williams**  
STAFF WRITER

January 2, 2007

This new year just might bring warmth and companionship to some cold and lonely pups. Starting yesterday, dog owners who leave their four-legged friends chained up for more than three hours could face a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

California is the first state to put a specific limit on how long people can tie up their dogs. It follows Connecticut, which prohibits tethering for an “unreasonable period of time.”

San Diego dog owners have mixed feelings about the new law.

Some say it's crucial to protecting the well-being of dogs, which become isolated, can strangle themselves and are more likely to bite people when they're chained and can't run away. Others say imposing a blanket restriction on every dog owner is unnecessary and impractical, and could criminalize people who take good care of their pets.

“I think it's pretty absurd,” said Fernando Alva, who lives in San Diego's South Park neighborhood and takes his 7-year-old black Labrador mix, Holmes, to work with him at a shipyard every day. Alva said he has no choice but to tie up his dog while they're at work and doesn't plan to change his routine.

“I enjoy his companionship, and he is spoiled rotten,” Alva said.

At the county's animal shelter in Carlsbad, Regional Director John Carlson said the new law is a relief. He said the time limit will enable animal-control officers to save some dogs from harm.

Before the law was in effect, owners were required only to ensure that tethered dogs weren't in physical danger and had water, food and shelter. So officers could do little to help a dog that wasn't in peril but could barely move because it lived day and night on a 2-foot chain.

“Those of us who deal with dogs on a regular basis realize that is a very, very bad situation,” Carlson said. “You don't want to wait until the animal is in a life-threatening situation.”

The new law prohibits owners from leaving a dog tied to a fixed object, such as a tree, fence or doghouse, for more than three hours in one day. It makes exceptions for dogs staying in parks and campgrounds, herding cattle and sheep, or attached to running lines, pulleys and trolley systems.

Carlson said county animal services will provide pamphlets that explain the law, and this month first-time violators who haven't endangered a dog will get a warning.

Sharon Coleman, president of The Animal Council, a nonprofit group in San Mateo that fights certain legislation related to animals and opposed this bill, said she's concerned that some dog owners won't have the resources to fence their yard or buy a trolley system. And what if a fence comes down in a windstorm or a fire? she asked.

Pam Runquist, spokeswoman for the California Animal Association, a coalition of animal-welfare groups that sponsored the bill, said the time limit reflects a modern view of dogs as social creatures that deserve to be protected from boredom and loneliness.

Carlson said animal control usually gets a couple of calls a week about dogs chained up outside, and even more when it's raining. With the new law, he expects the number of calls to increase.

“A dog is a pack animal and needs to be with its pack,” Carlson said. “The pack is its family.”

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■Brooke Williams: (619) 293-1228; [brooke.williams@uniontrib.com](mailto:brooke.williams@uniontrib.com)

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## Activist wants chaining of dogs banned

Aurora

Aug 22, 2007 12:19 PM

*By: Chris Traber, Staff Writer*

Nicole Simone wants your help to break the chain of animal cruelty in York Region. More urgently, she needs your signature.

The 22-year-old York University sociology student and volunteer at Kennel Inn, the animal shelter in her native Aurora, is a passionate animal rights advocate.

Starting in September, Ms Simone plans to petition the region's nine councils to pass effective bylaws banning the permanent chaining of dogs.

Her online petition has more than 125 signatures. She wants to address the issue armed with more than 1,000 names.

The laws in York Region state a dog may be lawfully chained permanently outside, as long as some sort of shelter is provided with a wind flap, along with proper collar, water and a minimum five foot leash, she said. Food does not have to be present but the dog has to look somewhat fed and in reasonable health.

Dogs may be left unattended for an undetermined period of time and many are not licensed.

Many chained dogs do not receive proper vaccinations and may have fleas and worms, which can spread



Chris Traber photo  
 Nicole Simone with dog, Charlie, feels dogs need to be unchained and started a petition that will be presented to Markham council.

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to humans.

"We get chained dogs at the shelter that come in horribly beaten and burned, sick and severely abused," Ms Simone said. "Often they have inappropriate collars. Their necks are raw and sore. About 30 per cent of them just can't be rehabilitated."

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Not only is the chaining of dogs inhumane, it's a significant danger for people, children in particular, she said.

Chained dogs lack necessary socialization and may become territorial, she said. These dogs, deprived of human interaction and attention, become aggressive.

Dogs are pack animals. In the wild, canines live, eat, and sleep with their family. In the absence of dogs, humans become their pack. A chained dog feels rejected and doesn't understand why, Ms Simone explained.

Like all animals, if threatened, their natural fight or flight instinct takes over. A tethered dog can't flee, so it will battle.

American SPCA research has shown chained dogs are nearly three times as likely to bite as dogs who are not chained.

"Unfortunately it's children who are at the greatest risk of being attacked. Kids are the No. 1 victims of chained dogs. They unknowingly try to approach and pet an abused dog," Ms Simone said.

The number of chained dogs is difficult to determine, Kennel Inn general manager Gary Lawrence said.

"It's virtually impossible," he said. "We get animals only if they're running or at large. We don't know if they were removed or broke free."

Ms Simone is confident she'll be welcome at council meetings.

"Everyone seems interested," she said. "They told me I stand a better chance if I have support from the community."

For more information or to sign the petition, click [here](#)

**PETA zeroes in on LaRue County**

By *SARAH BAKER*

In light of a pit bull attack in LaRue County last week, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals plans to use Hodgenville to start a new national advertising campaign against chaining dogs.

PETA plans to cover a billboard in the city with the picture of chained dog and the tagline "To keep your family safe, chain your door, not your dog." The location has not been decided, but PETA cruelty case worker Dan Paden said the agency hopes to have the advertisement up by the end of the week.

Last Monday, 4-year-old Emily Paige Stinnett was attacked by her family dog, an 80-pound pit bull, while playing on a swing set. The dog pulled the stake to which it was chained from the ground and attacked the girl, tearing away her scalp.

Saturday, Stinnett was in serious condition at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville.

Paden said the incident marked the fifth time a chained dog has attacked a child in the United States this month. It was by far the worst attack, he said.

LaRue County Sheriff Bobby Shoffner said the pit bull at the Stinnett home, which was less than a year old, was regularly chained.

PETA's message addresses the use of chained dogs as home protection and will expand into a national campaign, Paden said.

"Many of these dogs on chains are used as cheap alarm systems," he said. "Far from keeping the family safe, chaining a dog endangers the family."

In a press release, PETA reported that spending too much time at the end of a chain could drive dogs mad. Animal behaviorists have found chained dogs tend to become agitated, aggressively protective of their territory and overly fearful of intruders because they cannot move away from them.

Paden has also sent a letter to Hodgenville Mayor Roger Truitt, urging the city to enact anti-chaining legislation and informing him of chaining's threat to public safety. Truitt could not be reached for comment, but City Hall personnel noted the attack took place outside Hodgenville city limits.

Paden said PETA would push for more cities to adopt anti-chaining laws.

"They should have a fenced-in yard," LaRue County Dog Warden Jim Evans said of dog owners.

He said he's not sure how an anti-chaining law would go over with pet owners, though.

"Quite a few (people) keep them chained all the time," he said.

Two Kentucky cities, Louisville and Jefferson City, have enacted such laws.

Since 1998, Louisville has regulated dog chaining. At that time, residents could not keep a dog chained for more than eight hours a day, said Eric Blow, director of Louisville Metro Animal Services.

The time was limited to one hour per day in 2000, after a study showed people were more than three times as likely to be bitten by their own dog if it was chained for more than eight hours each day.

"It was both from a public safety standpoint and a humane treatment standpoint," said Blow, who proposed the law.

He noted cases where chained dogs jumped nearby fences and themselves. In some instances, a chain or rope had been worn so long the dog's skin had been torn and scar tissue had grown over it.

Blow said residents are still surprised they can be cited for chaining a dog too long, but there has never been a public outcry against the law. Still, he said such a law could trigger resident protest.

"When it comes to pets, people think they know better," Blow said. Most people weren't taught how to properly care for a pet, he said. "For many people, that's the only way they've ever known to contain a dog — to keep it on a chain," he said.

Paden said the campaign is targeting those who keep their pets tied up all the time.

"We're certainly not advocating they be able to roam," Paden said. He said dogs should be kept indoors and chained as little as possible. When outdoor containment is necessary, he said, a fenced yard with shelter is the most humane approach.

"I do think we can learn from that girl and her family's sadness and keep this from happening again," Paden said.

**Sarah Baker can be reached at 769-1200, Ext. 234, or e-mail her at [sjbaker@mail.the-ne.com](mailto:sjbaker@mail.the-ne.com).**

# ***Bill puts more teeth in dog protection***

By [Sharon Kiley Mack](#)

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007 - Bangor Daily News**

AUGUSTA - When Maine passed the nation's first "dogs chained for life" law in 2005, animal advocates hoped that dogs chained outdoors 24 hours a day would receive some protection, including from the deep freezes the state has experienced this month.

The law has been so successful that a new bill coming before the Legislature is designed to augment the dogs-chained-for-life guidelines, requiring the animals be let off their leashes periodically and allowing animal control officers to step in immediately when they see a dangerous or abusive situation.

Dogs chained for life are not put out briefly each day, officials explained. They are found mostly in rural areas, chained to dog houses or rusted cars and never off their chains from birth to death.

"There is no sadder sight than these outcast, forlorn, forgotten animals, relegated to the status of lawn ornaments and virtually ignored by the family," said Robert Fisk Jr., president of Maine Friends of Animals.

Whether people would report dogs chained for life or not was never in question, Fisk said. "The public immediately embraced this law. But we needed the law to have some enforcement powers," he said.

So MFOA is sponsoring a series of 30-second and one-minute public service announcements to get the word out that it could be illegal to chain a dog outside continuously. The ads have garnered at least one abuse call a day to the MFOA hot line, Fisk said. MFOA is an animal advocacy group that has 1,200 members statewide.

"This has been very, very successful," Fisk said. He said the media spots were aimed at educating the public that "dogs chained for life" constitute "one of the most pervasive forms of animal abuse."

Fisk said that dogs chained outside in poor weather or under inhumane conditions were the most frequent complaint his group received, even before the ads ran.

Dogs are pack animals, he said, and when confined to a chain, their behavior suffers.

"Rarely do these chained or tethered dogs receive sufficient care. They suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, frozen water bowls, inadequate shelter, and extremes in weather and temperature," Fisk said.

The law exempts Arctic dogs and requires a four-sided shelter and a swivel to prevent chain twisting.

Building on that law's success, Fisk said, MFOA is going back to the Legislature this session to make the chained-dogs guidelines stricter.

"The first time around, in 2005, we took off a time limit," Fisk said. "This time we are seeking a requirement that would allow the dogs off their tether for at least two hours daily."

Fisk said that MFOA is gathering statistics regarding chained-for-life dogs that will be presented to the Legislature's Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation to push for a time restriction.

"We also want to make it legal for an animal control officer to seize any animal in danger," he said.

"We have found that once many of these people who are chaining dogs for life realize they are in violation of the law, a lot of people just give them up."

Norma Worley, director of the Animal Welfare Division of the state Department of Agriculture, said Monday that she couldn't comment specifically since the bill has not been printed.

"But on the surface, it certainly seems to have its merits," she said. "The biggest problem would be that it would fall on the [animal control officers] to enforce.

"Unfortunately, not all dog owners are honest," she said.

Worley said many other states are looking at Maine's law as a model.

The proposal has not been set for public hearing.



Sunday, September 2, 2007 - 12:00 AM

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## **Pet dog attacks 4 family members**

**By Christina Siderius**  
*Seattle Times staff reporter*

Four family members are in the hospital after their dog got loose from its chain and attacked them this morning in Yakima County.

A responding Yakima Sheriff's deputy fatally shot the dog, claiming the animal was trying to attack her when she arrived at 9051 Evans Road near White Swan at 9:15 a.m., according to the Yakima County Sheriff's Office.

The dog, a Rottweiler mix, first attacked the family's small child, who was playing in the yard at the family's home.

The mother attempted to rescue the child, but was also attacked. She and the child tried to go back into the house, but the dog followed them inside and injured two other family members.

The four were taken to Yakima Memorial Hospital, but the extent of their injuries was not released by the sheriff's office.

Yakima County Animal Control is investigating the events.

*Christina Siderius: [csiderius@seattletimes.com](mailto:csiderius@seattletimes.com)*

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## ANIMAL ABUSE CASE DETAILS

### Tethered pit bull dies in heat Memphis, TN (US)

**Incident Date:** Monday, Aug 27, 2007

**County:** Shelby

**Local Map:** [available](#)

**Disposition:** Alleged

#### Case Snapshot



Case ID: 12170

Classification: Neglect /  
Abandonment

Animal: dog (non pit-bull),  
dog (pit-bull)

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#### Abuser names unreleased

In a quiet South Memphis neighborhood near the Memphis Depot, people had to witness first hand how the brutal heat can and will kill. Debbie Bolden lives across from the house now under investigation by police and animal control officers, she says, "It's too hot, for a human much less a dog to be out here you know, no food or water, you know that's bad."

Investigators tell News Channel 3 they got the call just after 3 Monday afternoon when a neighbor reported what looked like a dead pit bull in the back yard. Police say 2 couples live at the corner of Silver and Compton.

Animal Control Officers and police say the male pit bull was chained up so tight he could barely move, with no food, no water and left to basically fend for himself beneath the summer sun. Lt. Donald Dickerson is with the Memphis Police Department, he says, "Pure animal neglect it's an extremely hot day, dogs had not way to suffice for themselves there was not water, no food available to them they had no room to move around because they were chained to the fence, there's no shade..just pure neglect."

Animal Control officers also found another pit puppy chained up outside and a Pomeranian they pulled from a shed in the backyard. Lt. Dickerson says, "In light of everything that's going on in regard to pit bulls mainly and dogs especially it should send a message that if people have these animals they are responsible for them."

Police tell us it is likely the dog owners will be charged with either Animal Neglect or Cruelty. In the State of Tennessee Aggravated Cruelty to animals is a Felony. Aggravated Cruelty according to Tennessee Law is described as 'conduct which is done or carried out in a depraved and sadistic manner and which tortures or maims an animal including to provide food and water to a companion animal resulting in substantial risk of death or death.'

Investigators say it's not clear what the dog owners will be charged with but say it is likely they will be charged.

### Neighborhood Map

For more information about the Interactive Animal Cruelty Maps, see the [map notes](#).

