



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tammy S. Grimes • founder, **Dogs Deserve Better** • [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org)  
P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684 • 1.877.636.1408 • 814.941.7447

### **PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT HARRISBURG STATE CAPITOL BUILDING SPOTLIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-TETHERING BILL**

#### **GROUPS COME TOGETHER SEEKING TO PUSH HOUSE BILL 1065 FORWARD TO A VOTE**

Tipton, PA -- March 12, 2008 -- A press conference held Tuesday at the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg saw nine groups come together in a push to get House Bill 1065, a bill which would prohibit the tethering of dogs between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., forward to the floor for a vote. Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, a national rescue and advocacy group dedicated to ending the suffering endured by perpetually chained dogs, was one of five featured speakers on behalf of Pennsylvania's chained dogs.

Adams County SPCA, Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (CPAA), Dogs Deserve Better, Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), League of Humane Voters (Central PA, Lehigh Valley & Philadelphia Chapters), Mostly Mutts, North Penn Puppy Mill Watch, and Pennsylvania Legislative Animal Network all sent representatives to push for the legislation to move forward.

Approximately 100 people lined the stair and the hall of the Rotunda in support of the bill. Featured speakers included Representative Mario Scavello, (R-Monroe, HB 1065 Sponsor), Howard Nelson, CEO of Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PSPCA), Tammy Grimes, Founder, Dogs Deserve Better, Adam Goldfarb, Issues Specialist The Humane Society of the United States, and Amy Kaunas, Executive Director, Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area. Mary Jo McClain, PLAN lobbyist, organized and MC'd the event, with a final plea highlighting the consequences of NOT passing a law limiting tethering of dogs.

Grimes spoke not only to the suffering of Pennsylvania's chained dogs, but also the suffering of the neighbors who are forced to watch the dog languish day after day and night after frigid night. "I received a call from a young man named Shawn in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania this week, who was distraught over the plight of a chained black lab near him. He had called the dog catcher, who told him to call the Humane Officer, where he had to leave a message because they don't answer the phone. He spoke to the owner, who claimed it wasn't her dog, and went to the Altoona Mirror insisting they do a story, where he was refused. Then he called me. I told him the most I could do was to attempt to educate the caretakers by mailing literature, and I gave him the dog warden's number to have the dog checked for licence and rabies. I didn't have the heart to tell Shawn that all his hard work would probably come to nothing...THIS is why we need laws. Because not only are the dog's suffering, but everyone with a heart who lives in the neighborhood suffers right along with that dog."

Grimes also highlighted the suffering of America's children, who are the most frequent victims of chained dog attacks, citing at least 199 cases of serious injury or death within the past 2.5 years from chained dog attacks.

Although the practice of 24/7 chaining is pervasive in many parts of the country, states and cities have, in recent years, started to pass laws against the practice. California passed a law in 2006 and Texas followed suit in 2007. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and South Carolina are among the states currently considering laws that would put reasonable limits on how long a dog may be chained outdoors. Hundreds of cities have passed, or are considering, similar legislation.

Dogs Deserve Better provides a variety of services to people who agree to take their dogs off their chains, including providing help with socialization, housetraining, and fencing.

For general information about Dogs Deserve Better go to [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org).

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Note: For hi-resolution photos, please visit the site at  
<http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org/Valentines2008.html>.