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SEVEN PEOPLE TO CHAIN THEMSELVES TO DOGHOUSES IN FOUR STATES JULY 2-4, 2005

**Dogs Deserve Better's Chain Off 2005 Inspires Advocates to Live Chained to Doghouses
for as long as 36 Hours to Highlight the Plight of the Chained Dog**

Dogs Deserve Better announces its 3rd Annual Chain Off, July 2-4, 2005, as the country celebrates the Freedom of America. **During this time Dogs Deserve Better calls attention to those who are still not free—dogs living their entire lives on the end of a chain or enclosed in a pen.** Seven people in different locations of the country will chain themselves to doghouses sometime between July 2nd and 4th, and remain chained for as long as 36 hours in solidarity with man's best friends, to whom if chained or penned this day remains just as any other: miserable, sad, and lonely.

Tammy Sneath Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, will live **chained to a doghouse in State College, PA for 33 hours**, from 8:00 a.m. July 2nd through 5:00 p.m. July 3rd. Says Grimes, "There are millions of Americans who don't even know this goes on, who don't believe dogs live chained for life. **My hope is to bring this hidden problem to public awareness.** Everyone needs to put themselves in a chained dog's 'shoes', and everyone who knows the loving nature of a dog needs to take a stand against chaining. Just because your father did it—and his father before him—does not make it right and does not make it acceptable in today's society."

Grimes is excited this year to be joined by six other advocates in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia who will also chain themselves to doghouses. Near Scranton, Pennsylvania, Amanda Povilitus joins Grimes for a second year for eight hours July 4, next to an as-yet-unnamed friend; Monica Kinley-Kuhn and Sam Hogenaur will be chained for 24 hours in Richmond, Indiana July 2-3; Shelby Craig will live chained for 36 hours in Shelby County, Kentucky July 3-4; and Dan Paden will be chained for 2 hours in Richmond, Virginia July 2.

Grimes explains, "Dogs are pack animals, and as such hate to live alone. In the absence of the pack of long ago, we humans have become their pack. **When they are isolated from us, they suffer both mentally and physically. Many dogs have even been found with collars embedded in their necks,** the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain. And many dogs have starved or frozen to death on the end of these chains. Dogs living in these circumstances can become aggressive—eight children nationwide have lost their lives as a result of chained dogs since October 2003, and another 29 children suffered serious injury.

It's time America put a stop to this archaic method of caring for the family pet. We ask all caretakers to take your dogs off chains and out of pens, make them part of your family. We ask all lawmakers to consider both the safety of the dogs and the children, and create better laws to enhance our communities. And we ask all those who believe in our cause, whose dogs sleep in their homes and reside in their hearts, to stand with us for the sake of those not so lucky. Speak out today; Bring on the evolution!"

Dogs Deserve Better is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA/Chase Pet Protector Award, and is a national and international nonprofit working to bring dogs out of the backyard and into the home and family. For more information on the organization and Chain Off 2005, visit the website at www.dogsdeservebetter.org.