



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO THE PRESS

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### DO NOT BUILD DOGHOUSES!

## Dogs Deserve Better Asks Today Show and Noah's Wish NOT to Enable People in Louisiana to Again Chain and Neglect their Pets

September 26, 2005, Tipton, PA — Dogs Deserve Better, a national organization dedicated to the advocacy of all dogs living chained and penned outside, **has asked the Today Show and Noah's Wish to reconsider building doghouses for families in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.**

"We cannot enable these families to continue to mistreat their pets, and this is in effect what the Today Show and Noah's Wish are doing," states Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better. "There are no dogs left in Louisiana who were chained to a doghouse during the flooding, why? **Because they all drowned! Because their families left them, chained, to certain death.** I cannot fathom why anyone would go out and enable this mistreatment to continue.

**If I had no home and were living in a tent, that's where my dog would be living as well.** If these citizens go home, if they have a home to go to, then their pet can and should live in the home with them as part of the family. If they cannot provide the kind of life that a dog deserves, they should not get a dog.

**If we've learned anything as a result of this tragedy, it is that many people in our world value their pets enough to die for them. Let us not forget this lesson.** Any family wanting a dog after Katrina should want that dog to live in the home as part of their family."

Dogs Deserve Better volunteer reps were among the rescue organizations going in after Katrina. **A photo of a chained dog hanging in a tree** on their website serves as confirmation of the fate suffered by most chained dogs as a result of being left chained to a doghouse during Katrina.

**Chained dogs suffer on many levels, death by drowning being only one of them.** Rarely are 'outside dogs' spayed/neutered, or provided with the most basic of vet care. They are sitting ducks for any rabid animal or any other animal or human wishing to do them harm.

**"I, personally, have rescued three dogs living chained to doghouses that would have died within days without our efforts.** One grew a stone the size of a golf ball in his bladder, one was severely malnourished and suffering cigarette burns, and the other would have died during birthing without a caesarean." continues Grimes. "Despite the nostalgia the American doghouse seems to engender in some, the reality of the American doghouse is much more grim and sad. **I ask all citizens to write the Today Show and Noah's Wish and ask them to discontinue building and distributing doghouses.** Do not allow them to help others think it's ok to chain man's best friend for life."

Dogs Deserve Better is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector award, and now carries 107 reps in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. They may be reached through their website at [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org).