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June 25, 2006

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MEET THE 14 CONTESTANTS WHO WILL LIVE CHAINED TO DOGHOUSES JULY 1, 2006

**Last Person to Withstand Living Chained to Doghouse Wins New Car;
Voting Begins Online for People's Choice Award Winner**

Altoona, PA—Dogs Deserve Better, a nonprofit working to bring dogs into the home and family, introduces its contestants for a very unique reality-tv style contest: **14 people will live chained to doghouses for a period of up to two weeks in order to win the prize of a NEW Chevy Aveo.** The contest will begin at 12:00 noon July 1, and go as long as 12:00 noon, July 15. It is being held at Leidy Park in Mundys Corner, Pennsylvania approximately 1 hour east of Pittsburgh.

Contestants from Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Florida, South Carolina, and New York will converge on the little town of Mundys Corner, PA to begin a contest like no other. Actor Adrian Zmed, formerly Officer Romano on *TJ Hooker*, will attend to help kick off the event from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. July 1st, with speakers and bands scheduled throughout the day.

Online voting has begun for the People's Choice Award, the winner will receive a \$200 gift certificate to the online store of his/her choice. Each vote is \$1 donation to the cause.

Contestants:

Karen Mikael Hardy, 36, lives in Simpsonville, South Carolina. She lives with 7 rescued dogs and 2 rescued horses. Mikael believes in the saying "give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

Jacob Nabil Pittman, 19, lives in Cape Coral, Florida. He lives with a beagle, Lady, who lived either chained or in a bathroom most of the time before becoming part of his family.

Jacqueline Nicole Waldroup, 20, lives in Windber, Pennsylvania. She loves animals and the outdoors, and thinks this is an exciting and challenging way to raise awareness for a good cause.

Steven Garrett Knox, Jr., 21, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, wanted to join the contest because he cares about dogs very much. He has a Staffordshire Terrier that is always mistaken for a pit bull, and he feels they get a bad rap.

Corey James Hool, 21, of Beaverdale, Pennsylvania, thinks remaining chained for any length of time will be a hard thing to do, but it is for a good cause, and he wants to help make a difference.

Heather Ann Shirley, 35, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, hopes to donate the car to another deserving animal charity if she wins.

Aija Nicole Gillman, 18, of Pinckneyville, Illinois feels, as Ghandi did, that you can tell a lot about a country by the way it treats its animals.

Michael Smith, 40, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, has a dog named Baby, a Boxer, who lives in the home with him. He doesn't believe in keeping a dog chained, and thinks that as a result of this contest, more people will be aware of what it's like to live chained up.

John L. Roland, IV, 40, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, plans to play on behalf of his sister's two dogs who live in a pen, their names are Scotch and Valley.

Thomas Frank, 25, of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, would like to help the cause and make a statement. He thinks it will be very tough for the contestants, but is hoping everyone will be very friendly to everyone else.

Susan Fitzgerald, 34, of Oswego, New York, is hopeful that she will help raise consciousness about how wrong it is to have dogs chained.

Shawn Allen Fox, 19, of Lajose, Pennsylvania, loves animals, and he thinks this is a worthy way to win a new car.

Brandon Richardson, 21, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, feels that dogs are not just animals, but part of the family.

Trevor Fortson, 19, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, has three dogs, Coco, Nakita, and Chi-Chi. He thinks it will be very difficult living on a chain.

Tammy S. Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, states, "These brave men and women will compete to survive the boredom of living chained . . . They will be allowed no books, TV, radio, smoking, or even visitors, except for members of the press. For only 1/2 hour each day they may see family members or call home, reach out for some semblance of normality. They will be allowed the bare minimum in hygiene, no showers or baths, but only cleanliness routines undertaken within the confines of four tiny port-a-john walls. They will be stripped of all the comforts we take so much for granted on a daily basis. In their place, they receive only a chain, a collar, water, food, doghouse, sleeping bag, and shade. One of them will walk away with a new car...but more importantly, none of them will walk away unchanged. The knowledge they now bear may make it virtually impossible to look at a chained dog without an understanding of what it is like to be that dog."

See the website at www.dogsdeservebetter.org for a complete listing of locations and schedules for all Chain Off 2006 events.

Dogs Deserve Better is a 501c3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tipton, Pennsylvania, is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector Award, and currently has 141 area reps in 37 states as well as in Canada and Australia.