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PENNSYLVANIA DOGS FREEZE IN BELOW ZERO WIND CHILLS AS THEY AWAIT A PENNSYLVANIA LAW AGAINST TETHERING

Group Seeks to Limit Chaining of Dogs in Pennsylvania

Dogs Deserve Better Urges All Organizations, Individuals, and Business Owners to Join Coalition to Pass HB1254 in Pennsylvania



January 7, 2010, Altoona, PA — "Little Dog," a 25-lb. black and white foo foo dog of indiscriminate breed, stands in the snow outside his doghouse. The temperature overnight is 7 degrees, with a wind chill of -11, yet his caretakers fail to bring him inside.

He's not alone in his suffering. "Black Dog," an underweight lab mix, shivers involuntarily while he eats food brought by Dogs Deserve Better volunteers. He has ice on his head and buttocks from attempting to stay warm in a doghouse with no floor and holes in the sides. How he's survived the night is unknown.



This scenario repeats itself in towns all across Pennsylvania, as dogs await passage of HB1254, a bill which would limit the chaining of dogs. As winter storms ravage the state, bringing below-zero wind chills and arctic temperatures, dogs hold on as best they can. Those that freeze to death are rarely reported, quickly disposed of by owners looking to avoid legal consequences.

Tethering of dogs on a continual basis is cruel for many reasons, not the least of which is the danger of death in sub-zero temperatures. Because dogs are pack animals, they can become neurotic or aggressive due to lack of socialization with humans, and last year three Pennsylvania children were reported seriously injured or killed by chained or penned dogs.

The real tragedy is that the cruelty and danger caused by tethering dogs is completely avoidable through legislation. HB1254 would limit chaining in Pennsylvania, resulting in safer towns for our children and more compassionate living for Man's Best Friend.

Dogs Deserve Better, a national nonprofit working to end the suffering of dogs kept perpetually chained or caged, is joining with organizations and individuals state-wide to form a coalition to Unchain Pennsylvania's Dogs and get HB1254 passed to end this abuse.

"Dogs Deserve Better has received hundreds of calls this winter of dogs freezing and even dying outdoors as bitter cold sweeps the nation. I have personally advocated for 'Little Dog' for the past seven years, and have gotten nowhere. This small dog—who should be sitting on a lap somewhere or enjoying family trips in the car—instead grows older and sadder with each passing year. Before this, I watched as the old shepherd who was chained next to Little Dog grew frailer and frailer, eventually dying at the end of his/her chain, never having known human companionship or kindness," says Tamira Ci Thayne, founder and CEO of Dogs Deserve Better. "Sadly, only better laws will ensure humane treatment of dogs and end continual tethering. We are asking all Pennsylvania citizens to join our coalition at UnchainPADogs.com. Together, we have the power to pass House Bill 1254 and end the cruel practice of constant tethering."

So far four states have passed limitations on chaining: California, Texas, Connecticut, and Nevada. Hundreds of cities and counties have passed limitations or flat-out bans.

Please visit the websites at UnchainPADogs.com or DogsDeserveBetter.org to learn more about dog chaining, the reasons it is cruel to dogs and dangerous to humans, and to sign up for the coalition to pass HB1254.

Photos and video of Pennsylvania chained dogs in the cold is available by contacting tddb@dogsdeservebetter.org.

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