

Chained Dogs Q&A

1. What problems does it cause to chain a dog 24/7?

Chaining is inhumane and unsafe for dogs

Dogs are social beings who thrive on interaction with people and animals. A dog kept chained for months or years suffers psychological damage. Chained dogs often become anxious and aggressive. Their necks can become infected from too-tight collars. Chains get tangled, strangling the dogs. They can't escape storms or attacking animals.

Chaining is a safety hazard for people

Dogs feel protective of their territory. When confronted with a perceived threat, their *fight-or-flight* instinct kicks in. A chained dog, unable to flee, often feels forced to fight. Tragically, the victims of chained dog attacks are usually children.

Dogs shouldn't be allowed to run loose! Dogs should be socialized and kept in the home or a fence.



2. Are tethered dogs otherwise treated well?

Rarely. They suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate vet care, lack of exercise, and extreme temperatures. They must eat, sleep, and eliminate in one small area. Grass is beaten into hard-packed dirt. Chained dogs are easily ignored by their owners.

3. Who says chaining is inhumane?

U.S. Department of Agriculture: *Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury.*

In 1997 the **USDA** ruled people and organizations regulated by the Animal Welfare Act cannot keep dogs continuously chained.

In a press release for Dog Bite Prevention Week, the **American Veterinary Medical Association** stated, "Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior."



The **Centers for Disease Control** found chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite. The dogs most likely to bite are male, unneutered and chained.

4. Don't chained dogs make good guard dogs?

No. Chained dogs can't stop intruders. All they can do is bark. Since most chained dogs are unsocialized, they are unable to distinguish a real threat from a friend. **The best guard dogs live inside the home and are part of the family**, which is how K9 police dogs are raised.

5. Why should we pass a law to ban dog chaining?

Animal control advocates receive hundreds of calls from citizens concerned about chained animals. Because chaining is legal, there is little officers can do to help. By the time it becomes a clear case of animal cruelty, it is often too late to save the dog. Prohibiting chaining makes a community safer by reducing the number of dog attacks and dog bites. A chaining law also gives officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since most fighting dogs are kept chained.

6. Are there laws regulating dog chaining in other states or communities?

Yes, 22 states and several hundred U.S. communities have laws banning or regulating chaining. Visit unchainyourdog.org/laws to read more.

7. Would a chaining law cost lots of money?

No. Animal control officers are already spending resources responding to reports of chained and neglected dogs. A ban would allow animal control officers to fine individuals in violation of the law. This would be a source of additional revenue.

8. Who would be impacted by a law to ban dog tethering?

This law would not apply to situations where a dog is temporarily tied up, such as outside a store. People who keep their dogs continually chained would be affected by this law.

9. What about people who can't afford a fence?

You don't have to have a fence to have a dog! Apartment-dwellers don't have private yards; their dogs are happy living inside the home with the family and going on walks. There are many resources available to help people train their dogs to be well-behaved members of the family.

10. What about attaching a dog's leash to a "pulley run"?

Trolleys have the same problems with fixed point chaining. More rope means more ability to get tangled and strangled, and they can still attack anyone who come into the area.

11. Where can I learn more?

Visit unchainyourdog.org or dogsdesevebetter.org for articles, photos, ordinance language, and other info.

