

August 21, 2007

To Public Safety Committee Members

Dog Confinement Ordinances

- In September of 2006 U.S. Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-11th/ Mich.) introduced a resolution encouraging municipalities to adopt and enforce protections against dog bites.
- The Centers for Disease Control has concluded that 800,000 dog bites per year are serious enough to require medical attention.
- Michael Markarian, executive vice president of The HSUS, stated "there are two types of dogs with an increased likelihood to bite—chained dogs and male dogs who have not been neutered."
- The CDC has determined that over 70 percent of dogs involved in attacks are unneutered males.
- In addition, the CDC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the American Veterinary Medical Association have all determined that chaining or tethering creates dogs who are at a significantly greater risk to bite. The practice of chaining dogs for long periods of time is inhumane and poses a risk to the dogs involved, other animals, and the entire community.
- NAFA believes that stopping the practice of inhumane chaining and eliminating tethering of unaltered animals should be a priority for our city to help address dog bites, dangerous dog issues and humane living conditions for dogs.

We asked that each of you consider the following information and help make a much needed change in our community.

*Wannda Turner
Executive Director*



UNCHAIN JONESBORO

*Because dogs deserve more than life in prison ...
Because our children and families deserve a
safer community ...*

Volunteers for Northeast Arkansans for Animals believe that the improper confinement of dogs in our city poses a threat to the safety of our children (and adults); can cause unsanitary conditions degrading our neighborhoods and is inhumane to the canine citizens of Jonesboro. Therefore we propose that the Public Safety Committee consider creating additional city ordinances as suggested below to create a better Jonesboro for both humans and canines.



WHEREAS, a large number of dogs within the City Limits of Jonesboro, Arkansas have suffered severe injury from being tethered to a fixed location, limited to a small enclosure and neglected; and

WHEREAS, studies by the Humane Society of the United States and other reputable animal organizations have shown that tethering a dog to a fixed location for extended periods of time inhibits socialization and often results in dogs becoming more territorial and aggressive; and

WHEREAS, dogs that are unaltered are more likely to be territorial and aggressive;

WHEREAS, dogs that are improperly transported are a danger to themselves and to the citizens of Jonesboro; and

WHEREAS, neighborhoods are harmed by the tethering of dogs to a fixed location for extended periods because of the associated concentration of urine and feces within a small area and the damage to the yard.

Dog confinement outdoors.

a. **Access to Water and Shelter.** Any person owning or keeping a dog confined outside must provide the dog with access to water and an appropriate dog shelter. The dog shelter must allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on three sides, roofed, and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexile to allow the dog's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of wind and rain. The shelter shall be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair. Suitable drainage must be provided so that water is not standing in or around the shelter.

b. **Dog pens.** Unless otherwise permitted under subsection d, outdoor dog pens shall be located 75 feet from any dwelling other than the person owning or controlling the dog. There shall be at least 150 square feet in such pen for each dog kept therein which is over six months of age.

c. **Tethering.** Unless otherwise permitted under subsections d and e, it shall be unlawful for any person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, restrain or cause a dog to be fastened, chained, tied or restrained to houses, trees, fences, garages or other stationary or highly immobile objects by means of a rope, chain, strap or other physical restraint for the purpose of confinement.



d. **Trolley Systems.** A trolley system is a method to confine a dog by tethering the dog to a cable that is no less

than ten (10) feet in length and elevated four (4) to seven (7) feet off the ground in a manner that allows the tether to move freely along the length of the cable. Only one animal may be attached to each running cable line or trolley system. Unless otherwise permitted under subsection d, it shall be unlawful for any person to confine a dog through the use of a trolley system:

- (1) For more than 8 consecutive hours or more than 12 total hours in a twenty-four hour period;
- (2) For a puppy under the age of 3 months to be attached to a running cable line or trolley system for more than one consecutive hour or more than 8 total hours in a twenty-four hour period;
- (3) For dogs that are not spayed or neutered for any period of time. Unaltered dogs and must be in a completely enclosed yard or housed indoors;
- (4) That is located within 75 feet from any dwelling other than the person owning or controlling the dog;
- (5) Any tethering system employed shall not allow the dog or puppy to leave the owner's property or;
- (6) In a manner that poses harm to the dog including, without limitation:
 - A. The use of a collar or harness that is ill-fitting or constructed of any material other than leather or nylon;
 - B. The use of a tether that exceeds 1/5th of the body weight of the dog or 10 lbs total weight; or
 - C. The use of a trolley system in an area that contains hazards to the dog or deprives the dog of food, water, or shelter.

e. **Permit.** The Director of the Jonesboro Animal Control is hereby authorized to issue permits to allow the confinement of a dog in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this section. The yearly cost of said permit shall be \$100.00 per animal.

- (1) **Criteria.** No permit shall be issued unless the Director determines that: (i) unusual circumstances warrant confinement of the dog in this manner; (ii) the welfare of the dog will not be harmed by the confinement; and (iii) the neighborhood will not be adversely impacted by the confinement.
- (2) **Inspection.** All permits issued under this subsection shall require consent to both scheduled and unscheduled inspections of the animal and confinement area.
- (3) **Revocation.** The Director shall revoke a permit issued under this subsection if: (i) the holder of the permit is convicted of any offense under local, state, or federal law involving animal cruelty; or (ii) an inspection indicates that the criteria authorizing the permit are no longer met.

f. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit walking dogs with a hand-held leash.

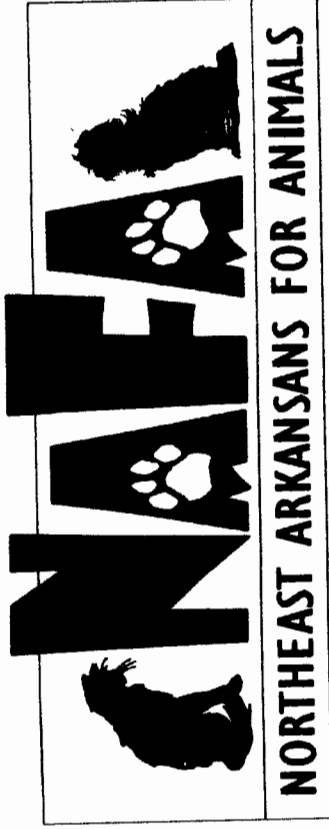
Confinement During Transportation.

(1) When transporting a dog in an open-bed pickup or in any open-bed vehicle, the dog shall be confined in a secured carrier or dog box that provides the dog adequate room to stand, turn around, and stretch out without hindrance and provides adequate ventilation and protection from environmental conditions.

(2) If a dog must be transported in an open-bed vehicle but is too large for a carrier or dog box, the dog shall be restrained by a system of tethering to the vehicle bed in a manner that reasonably restricts the dog to the center of the bed in order to prevent the dog's escape and to minimize the dog's access to the sides of the vehicle bed.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or confine or allow a dog to be confined in such a manner that it must remain in a motor vehicle, trailer or pet carrier under such conditions for such periods of time as may endanger the health or well-being of the dog due to heat, lack of food or water, or any circumstances which might cause suffering, disability or death.



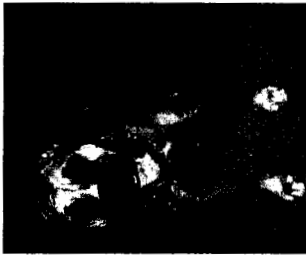


UNCHAIN JONESBORO

**Because dogs deserve more
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Chaining

Some people that it is humane for the dog and safe for the community to keep their dogs continuously chained to a fixed object such as a fence, tree or stake.



These dogs are not just outside for a few hours. They live on their chains all day, every day.

Across the country communities are changing their city ordinances to eradicate this practice.

Chaining

Journal of the American Medical Association and Public Health studies prove that chained dogs account for a substantial proportion of serious and fatal bites.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- Chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite.
- Dogs most likely to bite are **male, unneutered, and chained.**
- Victims are most often children, as they are smaller and more vulnerable targets.



Chaining

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA):

"Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior."

United States Department Agriculture (USDA):

"Continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane"

In 1997 chaining is disallowed as the primary source of confinement according to the U.S. Animal Welfare Act.



Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Dogs kept continuously chained are usually unsocialized, more territorial, and prone to aggression.

When a chained dog feels threatened, his "fight or flight" instinct kicks in. Since he can't flee, he feels forced to fight.

Attacks by chained dogs often occur when a child enters the dog's yard—and isn't aware of the dog's presence.

When an unsocialized chained dog breaks loose and roams the neighborhood, he is a serious threat to people.

Chained dogs are usually not vaccinated, which presents a disease threat if the dog bites someone.



Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Fatal Dog Attacks by Karen Delise:

Chained dogs killed at least 109 people from 1965-2001.

Of the 109 people, 99 were children that wandered into reach of a chained or similarly restrained dog.

Another 11 occurred from dogs who were chained and broke free before attacking.

Statistically, chained dogs are more dangerous than free-running packs of dogs.



Children Recently Killed by Chained Dogs

Amber Jones, Age 10
Texas, 2007

Jonathan Martin, Age 2
Virginia, October 2005

Asia Turner, Age 4
South Carolina, May 2005

Robbie Shafer, Age 4
Virginia, April 2005

Cody, Age 3
British Columbia, December 2004

Kanryn Billingsley, Age 1 Month
Mississippi, December 2004

Myles Leakes, Age 4
Florida, December 2004

Isaiiah Calandis Smith, Age 17 months
South Carolina, Sept. 2004

Patricia Anderson, Age 2
Georgia, July 2004

Trusten Liddle, Age 17 months
Hawaii, February 2004

Nathan Roy Hill, Age 3
North Carolina, January 2004

Makayla Sinclair, Age 2
South Carolina, October 2003

Sheldon Phillip, Age 4
Alaska, September 2003

Asia Turner
Killed 2005



Nathan Hill
Killed 2004



Myles Leakes
Killed 2004



Asia Turner
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Isaiiah Smith
Killed 2004



Trusten Liddle
Killed 2004

Note: There could have been more deaths, these are the ones we know about.

Children Recently Attacked by Chained Dogs



CRITICALLY INJURED
Joseph Flowers, 2005



CRITICALLY INJURED
Emily Stewart, 2004



CRITICALLY INJURED
Emma Leigh Allen, 2004



INJURED
Tiana McHenry, 2005

Jeanine Johnson, Age 9
West Charlotte, NC, May 2007

Wyatt Fillion, Age 9
Grand Forks, MN, May 2007

Diamond Spencer, Age 9
Pittsburg, PA, May 2007

Unnamed Boy, Age 21 months
Derrig, NH, May 2007

Frankie Lovello, Age 7
Cherry Hill, NJ, April 2007

DeVonta Prince, Age 9
Minneapolis, MN, April 2007

Ian Koo
Florida, March 2007

Josh Joffit
Colorado, February 2007

Ashley Evans, Age 2
Texas, October 2006

Jonathan Sallitall, Age 5
Kentucky, May 2006

Kiera Odell-Manuel, Age 7
Iowa, April 2006

Kylea Kindred, Age 5
Ohio, April 2006

Justica Laux, Age 3
California, March 2006

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Many dogs live on a chain for their entire life. They are chained 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.



Snowball has lived on a chain for 12 years. He does not get walks or attention from his owners.

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Chained dogs often get entangled in their chains, which can keep them from reaching shelter, food and water.



These dogs are tangled together and none can reach food, water or shelter.

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

In many cases the chains are very heavy. Some people use logging chains on their dogs.



Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Padlocks are common, too.



Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Some dogs live their lives on very short chains that allow little freedom of movement.



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Some chained dogs have no shelter at all. They have no protection from weather extremes of heat, rain and cold.



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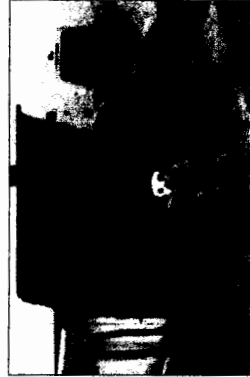
Many chained dogs have inadequate shelter.



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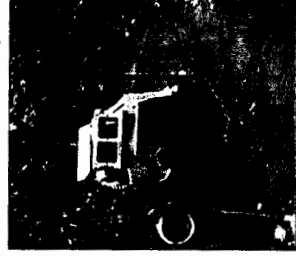
Chained dogs do not have the freedom to seek better shelter, as a dog in the wild could.



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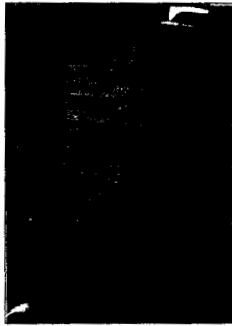
Grass is usually beaten down by the dog's constant pacing, leaving only hard-packed dirt and mud.



Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Chained dogs can get hung over fences and off decks, causing death.



We know it hurts to look at these photos. It hurts the dogs even more, which is why they need better laws to protect them.

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Chains frequently become embedded in the dog's neck, causing injury and infection.



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Many chained dogs live in unhealthy, trashy surroundings that are infested with parasites.



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Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Chained dogs are vulnerable to roaming dogs who could attack them.

Chained dogs are also vulnerable to dog thieves.

Pit bulls are often stolen for use in dog fights.

Smaller dogs and puppies are stolen to be used as pit bull bait (to train fighting dogs).

Some people collect free and stolen dogs and sell them to research labs or Class B research lab dealers.

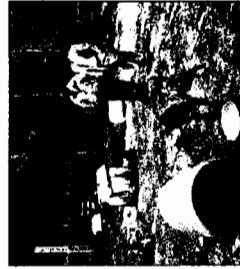


Annabelle is a sweet little dog who was chained near a busy street. Anyone could have taken her.

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Chained dogs, especially pit bulls, can be a sign of illegal dog-fighting.



These chained dogs were part of a dog fighting ring in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Injured and dead dogs were also found on-site, along with illegal drugs.

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Making chaining illegal gives officers a tool to crack down on dog fighting without having to catch a fight in progress.



This chained dog was part of a dog-fighting ring in New Orleans.

Chaining

Inhumane for dogs and dangerous for people.

Many chained dogs do not get enough food and clean water.



Pedro died of starvation soon after this photo was taken.

Chaining

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Charlie's owners moved away and he went a week without food. He was rescued.

Chaining

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Many chained dogs do not get enough food and clean water.



This is Magnum. He lived for 3 years tied to a chain in his families back yard. He had no hope of getting any food or water unless someone brought it to him. It is obvious that they did not do that very often.

Guard Dog Issue

Chaining makes dogs aggressive, not protective.

Protective dog: Accustomed to people and can tell when family is being threatened. Learns to be protective by interacting with family

Leaving a dog on a chain and ignoring him is how to raise an aggressive dog.

Aggressive dog: Can't distinguish between family friend and threatening person. Will attack anyone - children who wander into yard, policeman, the meter reader

How can a chained dog stop an intruder? All he can do is bark.

Inside, family pets make the best guard dogs. Just ask a K9 officer. Most K9 officers keep their dogs inside the house where they are considered part of the family.

Statistics show that inside dogs are very effective way to scare off intruders

Owning a dog is a responsibility!

Dog owners must be able to provide for their dog's minimum, basic needs of:



- Exercise
- Food
- Water
- Shelter

If a dog guardian cannot provide for his dog's basic needs, he needs to reconsider having a dog.

Dogs are living creatures—not objects to be tossed in the backyard like a junked car.

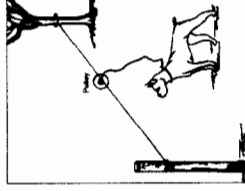
• Dogs are highly social pack animals. Guardians are encouraged to bring them into their homes.

• If the dog is not going to be allowed inside, an adequate fence is the next best option. A fence will allow the dog freedom of movement and the ability to exercise.

• If a fence is not possible, citizens are still responsible for the socialization and humane treatment of their dogs. An alternative to fixed-point chaining is a trolley (overhead run):

- Very inexpensive.
- Easy to install.
- Provide more freedom of movement than a fixed chain, which alleviates some of the dog's frustration and aggression.

Note: Dogs can get hung on a trolley, just as with a regular chain.



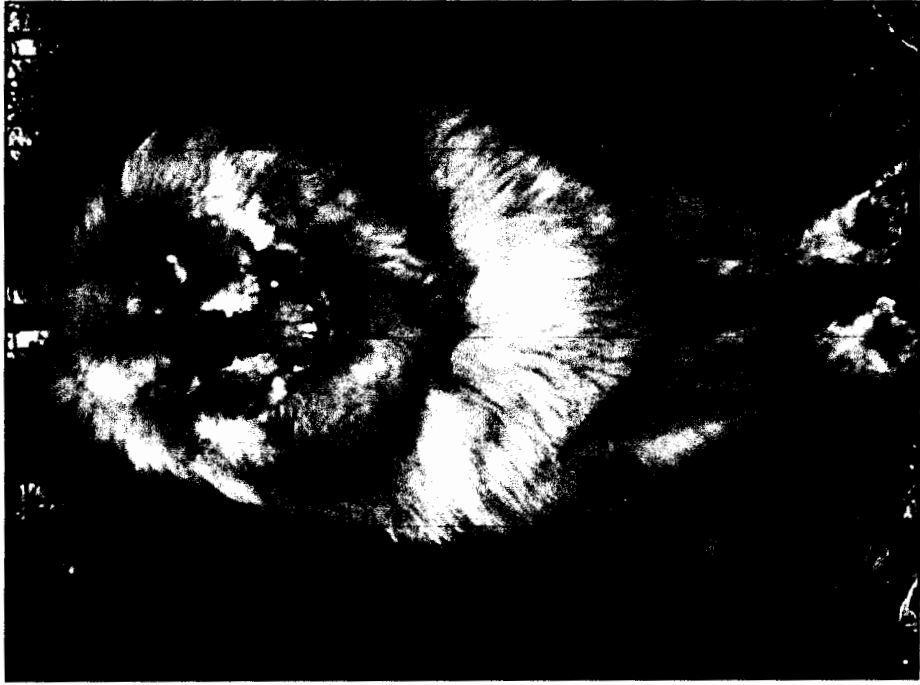
Limited chain area...



...expanded Trolley area



Thank you.



T.J. was rescued from life on a chain.

