

Chained Dogs Q&A

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. Prohibiting chaining makes a community safer by reducing the number of dog attacks and dog bites.



Chaining is 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.

Most tethered dogs are generally not well cared for

Chained dogs are easily ignored by their owners. Most Animal Control complaints regarding dogs in unhealthy conditions, in severe weather without shelter, shade, lacking water or food are dogs on chains.



They suffer from standing in their own excrement, getting tangled, sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, biting flies, fleas, inadequate vet care, lack of exercise, and extreme temperatures. They must eat, sleep, and eliminate in one small area.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture considers tethering inhumane

"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.

Tethering/Chaining contributes to Aggressive Behavior

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."

Chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the dogs most likely to bite are male, not neutered and chained.

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.

A tethering ban or partial ban gives Law Enforcement officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since most fighting dogs are kept chained.

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

People who keep their dogs continually chained would be affected by this law.

Would a chaining law cost the county 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.

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.



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

Trolleys or pulleys have the same problems as fixed point chaining, but give the dog more freedom of movement, provided they don't get snared or tangled. For that reason any type of tethering, even on a pulley system should not be "unattended" or when anyone is away from home and cannot supervise.

Bear in mind, regardless of the system used, tethered dogs can still attack anyone who comes into the area.

