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ORGANIZATION FORMS “MOTHERS AGAINST DOG CHAINING” TO HIGHLIGHT NEED TO PROTECT CHILDREN BY SOCIALIZING DOGS

Group to Hold Demonstration/Press Conference During South Carolina County Commissioners Meeting, June 13th, 2005

Mothers Against Dog Chaining, an initiative of the national nonprofit Dogs Deserve Better, Inc., will hold its debut demonstration and press conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Monday, June 13th. The press conference will take place at 6:00 p.m. outside the courthouse, while the county commissioners hold their monthly meeting inside. The demonstration, led by Dogs Deserve Better founder Tammy S. Grimes, and Crystal Sinclair, mother of Makayla Sinclair, will begin at 3:00 p.m. Local advocacy group Speak for Animals plans to turn out in support of the initiative.

Makayla Sinclair, 2, was the first of three children in the past 21 months to lose her life in Spartanburg County due to an attack by chained dogs. Isaiah Smith, 19 months, was killed in September of 2004, and Asia Michelle Turner, 4, was killed in May of 2005.

Grimes states, “Despite three deaths in less than 2 years—by far leading the nation for deaths by chained dogs—the Spartanburg County Council has refused to even discuss the issue at their June meeting. We’ve also asked to be put on the agenda, and were told the agenda was already set and could not be revised. We will, however, be outside the courthouse to present our views to the press, the council and the citizens of this county. The deaths of these children are too important to ignore. We invite all concerned citizens of Spartanburg County to come and stand with us.”

Spartanburg Animal Control officer Don Arnold has drafted an ordinance, yet to be reviewed by the council, and describes chained dogs as “loaded guns waiting to happen.”

In nearby North Carolina, a state which has suffered eight deaths or serious injuries to children as a result of chained dogs in this same 21-month period, Scotland County has just enacted a law June 6th which will limit tethering of dogs to one hour a day beginning September 1, 2005.

Councilman Ken Huckaby has said “the council shouldn't legislate something which is a moral issue.” Mothers Against Dog Chaining proponent Tammy Grimes couldn't disagree more. “You cannot dismiss the deaths of children as ‘a moral issue.’ That is an insult to Crystal and the families of Isaiah and Asia, who have lost a big piece of their hearts. Children are losing their lives because we are not socializing our dogs. Chaining a dog for life is not the answer, for the dog or the innocent child who may wander into it's path. Where education fails to reach the people, legislation must step up to protect our children and our pets.”

Grimes and Sinclair plan to take Mothers Against Dog Chaining nationwide, and are available for speaking engagements to further the mission of this initiative, which seeks above all to protect our nation's children by socializing our dogs. For more information and the latest updates on attacks and the efforts of Mothers Against Dog Chaining, please visit the website at www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org.