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MOTHERS AGAINST DOG CHAINING ASKS OKLAHOMA REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSIDER STATE LAW BANNING CHAINING

Fourth Child Since November 2005 Killed or Seriously Injured by Chained Dogs Highlights Need for Change in State Laws

(Altoona, PA - 30 January, 2006) Mothers Against Dog Chaining, an initiative of the national non-profit Dogs Deserve Better, Inc., is sending letters to all state representatives in Oklahoma asking them to consider a state law banning chaining in the wake of a fourth child seriously injured or killed by chained dogs since November, 2005.

Cianna Crittenden became the fourth tragedy in Oklahoma last week, when a chained pit bull “tore off a large piece of one cheek and caused a deep puncture under Cianna’s right eye, leading to several plastic surgeries,” according to the Tulsa World.

Also in January, Cody Adair, 4, was killed when he wandered into the back yard where there was a chained and penned terrier; Nick McMasters, 11, was seriously injured in November by a chained pit, as well as an unnamed 2 year old boy in Muldrow, Oklahoma.

Cianna's injury becomes the 65th case of serious injury or death to a child since the group started cataloging them in October of 2003. There are currently at least 80 cities, counties, and states in the nation with laws banning or limiting chaining.

Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better and leader of the Mothers Against Dog Chaining initiative, feels legislation must work hand in hand with education to save the lives of our children. She states, “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 its path. Where education fails to reach the people, legislation must step up to protect our children and our pets.”

“We are sending letters to all state reps in Oklahoma asking that they consider legislation to ban chaining of dogs. This in turn will protect our children for further serious injury or death as our dogs become better-socialized family members. We also ask all parents of children harmed by chained dogs to stand with us in this effort, to speak out and stop the chaining.”

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.