



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact info: Tamira Ci Thayne, 814.941.7447, www.dogsdeservebetter.org
www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org, Tammy@mothersagainstdogchaining.org

CHAINED DOGS HEAD LIST OF THOSE TO WATCH FOR DURING DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK, MAY 17-23

GROUP ASKS CARETAKERS TO SOCIALIZER DOGS WITH CHILDREN; REMINDS PARENTS NOT TO LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE WITH CHAINED DOGS

Altoona, PA, May 18, 2010 — During Dog Bite Prevention Week May 17-23, Dogs Deserve Better, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and its dog-bite prevention arm Mothers Against Dog Chaining urge everyone to become familiar with the group of dogs most likely to attack: no, it's not a BREED of dog, but a group of dogs—those who live chained outside for life.

Statistics from the Center for Disease Control show chained dogs as almost 3X more likely to attack than free-roaming dogs, and Mothers Against Dog Chaining advises that the very WORST bite factor will come from a male, unneutered, and chained dog.

Tamira Ci Thayne, founder of Dogs Deserve Better and leader of the Mothers Against Dog Chaining initiative, urges all parents to socialize their dogs with children. "I dread spring each year, as I know the number of serious or fatal attacks on children by chained dogs will dramatically increase. In 2010, January saw only one serious attack, while April saw seven by contrast. Chained dogs can be territorial, unsocialized with children, frustrated, and therefore aggressive."

From October 2003 through April 2010, there have been at least 305 children seriously injured or killed by chained dogs. The organization logs only those serious enough to make the papers or local news, and acknowledges that the actual count is much higher. Chained dogs, unsocialized with humans, can and do attack and kill small children who come into their territory. There are over 150 cities, counties, and states in the nation with laws banning or limiting chaining.

Thayne continues, "Children are dying because we are not socializing our dogs, are not taking responsibility for our dogs, and are leaving our dogs chained outside for life. Chaining 'man's best friend' is not the answer, for the dog or the innocent child who may wander into its path. Dogs are responsibilities that must be taken seriously. We ask all caretakers to fence their yards, train their dogs to become part of the family, and never leave a child alone outside for even a moment with a dog on a chain. We must work together to protect both our children and our pets."

For more information, to see a breakdown by month and state, and the latest updates on attacks and the efforts of Mothers Against Dog Chaining, please visit the website at www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org. To help chained dogs in your neighborhood, visit www.dogsdeservebetter.org