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Contact info: Tammy S. Grimes, 814.941.7447
www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org, Tammy@mothersagainstdogchaining.org

SPRING BRINGS 4-FOLD INCREASE IN CHAINED DOG ATTACKS ON CHILDREN

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

(Altoona, PA - 28 April, 2006) Chained dog attacks on children have risen 4-fold nationwide in the month of April compared to attacks on children earlier this year, reports Mothers Against Dog Chaining, an initiative of Dogs Deserve Better. The group attributes the rise in attacks—from 2 in January to 8 in the month of April—to an increase in springtime play and outdoor activity by our nation's youth.

Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better and leader of the Mothers Against Dog Chaining initiative, urges all parents to socialize their dogs with children. "I am very alarmed by the increase in attacks in the month of April, and these are just the attacks serious enough to make headlines. I cannot help but wonder how many attacks are going unlogged because they do not make local news. In my hometown of Bellwood, Pennsylvania, I was called this week to help a young girl after she was chased by a rottweiler who'd broken free of his chain. Luckily a man was able to get between her and the dog to save her from physical harm. The first-grader is still traumatized and visibly shaken."

From October 2003 through April 2006, there have been at least 84 children seriously injured or killed by chained dogs. Chained dogs, unsocialized with humans, can and do attack and kill small children who come into their territory. There are currently approximately 90 cities, counties, and states in the nation with laws banning or limiting chaining.

Grimes continues, "In the past two months, 13 children have been seriously injured, and Quillan Cottrell, 3, of Missouri lost his life in March to a chained dog. Children are dying because we are not socializing our dogs. Chaining 'man's best friend' for life 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 and the latest updates on attacks and the efforts of Mothers Against Dog Chaining, please visit the website at www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org.