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Contact info: Tamira Ci Thayne, 814.941.7447, P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684  
www.mothersagainstdogchaining.org, Tammy@mothersagainstdogchaining.org  
or Miranda Riane • mirandariane@yahoo.com

### **SPRING & SUMMER TO BRING INCREASE IN ATTACKS ON CHILDREN BY CHAINED DOGS**

**Group warns against danger of chaining dogs,  
especially in spring & summer when attacks increase four-fold**

**(Altoona, PA June 1, 2009)** Dustin Faulkner, 3, killed. Jeremy Lee, 12. Injured. Jazmin Pike, 8. Injured. Brianna Shanor, 8, killed. Brian Lemus, injured. Chyenne Peppers, 5, killed.

You have just read six names of children who were either killed or seriously injured in 2009 by dogs who were forced to live their lives at the end of a chain. The sad part is the names you have read are just a small fraction of the victims. The list goes on, and that list is very long. In fact, over fifty percent of dog attacks are not even reported.

In 2003 Mothers Against Dog Chaining began to monitor nationwide dog attacks on children. What was discovered is warmer weather brings an increase on these attacks.

In just this year alone, there have been seventeen known serious chained dog attacks on children. Twelve of them caused serious injury, and five children lost their lives. The year is young. The Center for Disease Control estimates that annually 800,000 persons will seek medical attention for dog bites, a very large part of which happen by chained, unsocialized dogs. The frustrating part in all of this remains most of these attacks did not have to happen. They could have been prevented by simply passing laws which prohibit dog caretakers from tethering their pets for lengthy periods of time.

Studies done by the USDA, CDC, HSUS, veterinarians and animal behaviorists have shown dogs who spend their lives on the end of a chain become aggressive, agitated, unsocialized, and territorial, often times lashing out at any unsuspecting person—most often children. A dog is a naturally social creature who thrives on human affection, interaction, and companionship.

Do not fool yourself—providing food, water, and a shelter is not enough. Aside from the emotional damage it does, tethering subjects dogs to harsh weather conditions, heat and/or extreme cold. Bugs, such as ants, fleas, ticks, and flies can be maddening for a dog that is bitten repeatedly. Many insects carry diseases which can make your dog very sick or even kill your dog. Even other animals can pose a threat. A dog that is chained has no protection against another animal wishing to do it harm. A chained dog can even cause serious injury or death to itself. In the angst and desperation to free itself, dogs often hang themselves, resulting in a painful and agonizing death.

Miranda Riane, spokesperson for Mothers Against Dog Chaining states, “When my 8 year old son was bitten by a three year old intact male pitbull, Boss, who spent his life at the end of a chain, I did my research and realized what a danger dog tethering can be to both dogs and people. At the time of his first bite, to his female caretaker, Boss was chained in the backyard constantly. Following his second bite, which was to my son, he was moved to a chain in the basement of the home, where he went on to bite his third victim, the male caretaker. The dog never stood a chance to live the normal, socialized, happy life that every dog deserves. Following the third bite, the courts stepped in and ruled to have the dog euthanized. Both my son, Timmy, and the dog, Boss, were the victims in this case. My son paid with multiple bites to his arm and the dog paid the ultimate price, his life. Yet the way the dog was forced to live was overlooked, as it so often times is for many dogs. Although many local governments are now passing laws abolishing the practice, some continue to remain blind to the consequences of tethering dogs.”

Many people believe they can't afford to fence in their yard for their pets. However, what most people don't know is that fencing can be done inexpensively, for as little as \$200, by purchasing welded wire fencing and materials from your local hardware store. In addition to fencing your yard with a little elbow grease, here are two ways to make your dog happier and healthier:

1.) Bring your dog indoors! Some dogs are high energy, and end up chained because they are considered a nuisance inside the home. A good way to curb that behavior is to regularly exercise your dog. Work out some of that energy! A walk does wonders for both you and your dog. Not to mention, it is great one-on-one time with your pet!

2.) Apply for the Dogs Deserve Better fencing program. If you don't have the money to fence in your yard, DDB regularly provides fencing materials for those in need; visit the site at [DogsDeserveBetter.org](http://DogsDeserveBetter.org) to learn more.

Bring your dog in to spend time with the family. Your dog depends on you to give him a safe and happy life. Along with daily food and water, socializing your dog with humans is of the utmost importance. In doing so, you will not only make your dog happy, but you will be lowering the statistics of dog attacks. It's the kind and compassionate choice to make.

### **About Mothers Against Dog Chaining**

Mothers Against Dog Chaining is an initiative of the non-profit Dogs Deserve Better, which works on numerous fronts to end the suffering endured by dogs that are kept chained and caged. Mothers Against Dog Chaining is led by DDB founder Tamira Ci Thayne and Miranda Riane, mother of Timmy Hughes, who was attacked by a neighbor's chained dog in November 2007.