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MOTHERS AGAINST DOG CHAINING SEEKS PARENTS OF CHILDREN SERIOUSLY INJURED/KILLED BY CHAINED DOGS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST CHAINING

Plea Comes In the Wake of Tenth Death or Serious Injury in North Carolina since October 2003

Mothers Against Dog Chaining, an initiative of the national nonprofit Dogs Deserve Better, Inc., is putting out a plea to mothers and fathers of children killed or seriously injured by chained dogs to stand with them in their quest to end chaining for both the safety of the nation's children and dogs.

Since October 2003, 46 children across the U.S. have been killed or seriously injured by chained dogs. The latest in a long line of attacks left Christopher Austin Martin, 2, of North Carolina with his stomach muscles ripped and holes in his abdominal wall and intestines. He underwent four surgeries to fix his injuries in early July 2005.

Tammy Grimes, leader of the Mothers Against Dog Chaining initiative, states, "North Carolina by far leads the nation in chaining deaths or serious injuries, with 10 since October 2003. We hear officials talk of breed bans in the wake of a chaining death or injury, but no mention of chaining as the root of the problem. It's time for lawmakers to understand that a chained dog is an unsocialized dog, especially with children who cannot fend for themselves. A chained dog, regardless of breed, can and will kill.

We implore all citizens and especially parents of children killed or injured by chained dogs to stand with us against chaining. Make it known to your local counsels that you want to limit or eliminate chaining. When more of us speak up, they will listen."

There are currently 70 cities or counties nationwide that ban or limit tethering. In the past two months three counties have banned or limited chaining: Scotland County, North Carolina; Dekalb County, Georgia; and Orange County, Florida.

Grimes and Crystal Sinclair, whose daughter Makayla was killed by chained dogs in October 2003, are available for speaking engagements to further the mission of the Mothers Against Dog Chaining initiative, which seeks 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.