

Animal Services



WHY CHAINING DOGS AS A PRIMARY FORM OF CONFINEMENT IS NOT RECOMMENDED

DOGS CHAINED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME CAN BECOME AGGRESSIVE.

- Dogs are naturally protective of their territory, which in the case of chained dogs is small and limited. When dogs feel that their territory is threatened, the natural “fight or flight” instinct will kick in. Because chained dogs cannot escape from the threat, they will often revert to fight mode. By chaining a dog, an owner is removing the dog’s option to move away or to escape from what the dog perceives as a threat.
- A Center for Disease Control (CDC) study found chained dogs to be 2.8 times more likely to bite. Unneutered male dogs that are chained as a primary form of confinement are the most likely to bite. All too often, the victims are small children or family members.
- A chained dog who escapes from his chain may remain aggressive and is more likely to chase and attack unsuspecting passersby and pets.
- It is a fallacy that a chained, outside dog is a good guard dog. Chaining creates aggression, not protectiveness. A dog learns to be protective by spending time with people and seeing himself as part of the family “pack. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog.

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CHAINED DOGS ARE AT RISK FOR INJURY



- Because chained dogs are trapped in a small, confined area, they are easy targets for other dogs, wild animals, insects and teasing or harassment from people.
- A dog's chain often become entangled with other objects. This can result in choking or, unfortunately, all too often, serious injury or death. Or, as the dog moves about, the links twist and the chain shortens—sometimes dangerously short.

CHAINED DOGS ARE OFTEN NEGLECTED

- Because they are “out of sight, out of mind”, chained dogs are often forgotten. Chained dogs often endure sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, unnoticed and untreated illnesses or injuries and extreme temperatures. They are often not provided with appropriate shelter or cannot reach their dog house because of tangled chains.
- A chained dog's behavior becomes a self fulfilling prophesy. Dogs are often chained outside because they lack manners. Being chained outside results in even worse, more neurotic behavior which makes them difficult to approach. Because they now jump, bark and are unmanageable, they rarely receive even minimal affection....and the downward cycle continues. Eventually, they became part of the landscape and receive poor physical treatment and no interaction with humans.
- A chained dog has to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a small, confined area. Because the dogs are often untrained and lack manners, it becomes troublesome for owners to clean the area properly. Although there may have once been grass in an area of confinement at one time, it is usually so beaten down by the dog's pacing that the ground consists of nothing but dirt or mud.

For these reasons chaining a dog as a primary form of confinement is never recommended. There are better options to keep your dog confined and the community safe,—options that allow for you and your dog to build a lasting relationship. A dog may be an employee (a herding dog, a protector) or a family pet. Either way, confining them safely, effectively and humanely is a dog owner's responsibility.

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