

# 16 Ways to Improve Your Dog's Life

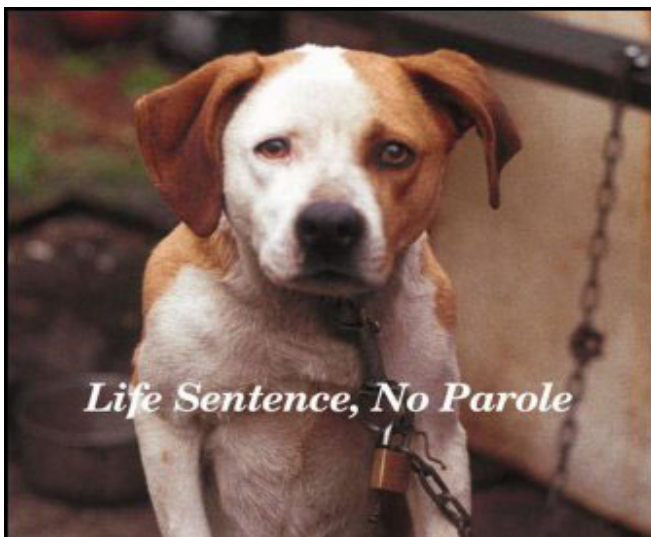
from the website: [www.UnchainYourDog.org](http://www.UnchainYourDog.org)

- 1. Bring your dog inside!** Dogs get bored and lonely sitting on the same patch of packed dirt day after day, month after month, year after year. Dogs are social pack animals who want to be inside the house with their "pack": their human family. Read the attached tips on housetraining and behavior modification to help your dog be a good "inside" dog. Also, inside dogs make the very best guard dogs.
- 2. Put up a fence.** Fences give dogs freedom and make it easier for owners to approach their dogs, since they won't be excitedly lunging at the end of a chain. Fences don't have to be very expensive if you are willing to do some work yourself. You can sink wooden posts or metal T-posts and attach inexpensive fencing to them for the cheapest fence (see following pages.)

Workers at home improvement stores such as Home Depot, farm supply stores such as Tractor Supply, and hardware stores will tell you exactly what materials to buy and give you advice on putting up all types of fences. Check with fencing companies, especially commercial fencing companies, to see if they have leftover materials for donation.
- 3. Put up a trolley system** if you can't put up a fence. A trolley system is cheap and will give the dog much more freedom of movement than a chain. (see attached info sheet)
- 4. If your dog can escape your fence**, do one or more of the following:
  - If your dog can climb over a short fence, extend the height of the fence by installing tall metal T-posts and attaching mesh fencing across the top half of the posts (see attached page.) You can also purchase inexpensive bamboo or reed fencing, which comes in 6-foot rolls. Attach the bamboo fencing to the existing fence. It is difficult for a dog to climb this slick fencing.
  - Install an electric fence. At pet and home improvement stores you can buy electric fence kits for both fenced and unfenced yards. Some electric fences attach to an existing fence. Other electric fences are buried underground.
  - Install a "hot wire" to the top of your existing fence for around \$40-\$50. Call a farm supply or hardware store for advice on putting up a hotwire. Hotwires are commonly used to contain cows and horses. They are a good deterrent to burglars, too!
  - To stop diggers, bury chicken wire to a depth of one foot below where the fence meets the ground (be sure to bend in sharp edges) or put concrete blocks around the bottom of the fence. You can also dig a trough under the fence and fill it with concrete (along the whole fence or only in "trouble spots").
- 5. Purchase a 15, 20, or 30 foot lightweight tie-out** if a fence or trolley aren't possible. Attach the tie-out to a strong stake that screws into the ground. Place the stake in a central location so that the dog can move around all sides of the stake. Note: We have found that the Duckbill Anchor kit is a very strong stake.
- 6. Spaying and neutering a dog will help him to calm down** and stay closer to home. A sterilized dog won't try to escape to find a mate! Sterilization will NOT change your dog's personality! Sterilization is healthy for your dog: it reduces his or her risk of contracting certain types of cancer.

Investigate low-cost spay/neuter programs in your area. Contact your local humane society or Spay USA at 1-800-248-SPAY or [www.SpayUsa.org](http://www.SpayUsa.org) to get a coupon.
- 7. Replace ill-fitting, old collars** with a new nylon collar. Be sure the collar is not too tight. You should be able to easily fit two fingers between the dog's neck and the collar. If you need to add a hole to a collar, hammer a thick nail through it, or heat a pick and poke it through.
- 8. Provide food and fresh water EVERY day.** Every day that you eat, your dog needs to eat, too. You can place a water bowl inside a tire or in a hole in the ground to keep it from tipping. You can also attach a water bucket to a wooden doghouse or fence. Stretch wire, a small chain, bungee cord, or twine across the bucket and secure the wire on either side of the bucket.

9. **Provide proper shelter** for the dog. Dog igloos can be purchased pretty cheaply from discount stores, farm supply stores, and hardware stores.
- Dogs get cold in the winter just like we do, especially short-haired dogs. If it is too cold for you to sleep outside, your dog is going to be cold outside, too. If you can't bring the dog inside in icy winter, fill doghouses with hay or cedar chips to help your dog retain body heat. (Cedar chips are preferable to hay because they are less likely to rot and don't contain mites.) If you use hay and it gets wet and soggy, spread it in the sun on a sunny day to dry it out.
- To keep cold air from blowing through the doghouse, the door should be covered with a plastic flap. You can use a car mat, a piece of plastic carpet runner, or even a piece of carpet.
- Doghouses should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around comfortably, but small enough to retain the dog's body heat.
  - Wooden doghouses should be raised a few inches off of the ground to prevent rotting and keep out rain. Flat concrete blocks are an easy way to raise a doghouse.
  - Dogs enjoy having towels and blankets to sleep on, just like we do. Remember to wash them every few weeks so they don't get stiff with dirt.
10. **Give your dog toys and rawhides.** Dogs need the stimulation provided by toys, just like kids do. A big rawhide will occupy a dog for several hours (dog toys and rawhides are available at grocery stores). Even a knotted towel or ball can provide hours of entertainment.
11. **Take your dog on walks!** It will mean the world to your dog to be able to get of the yard, see new things, and smell new smells. Walking your dog is great exercise for both you and your dog! If the dog is very strong or large, you can use a prong collar or harness to make walking easier on you. Ask pet store workers to help you get the dog fitted for a collar or harness.
12. **Take your dog to school!** Obedience training can solve behavior problems and help the dog learn how to be a good "inside" dog. Most pet stores offer inexpensive dog training.
13. **Provide your dog with flea treatment and annual worming.** Biting fleas make a dog's life miserable. You can purchase flea treatment at pet, discount and grocery stores. Most farm supply stores sell wormers and vaccinations at much cheaper prices than vets.
14. **Provide shade in the summer.** A doghouse isn't the same thing as shade. It gets very hot inside a doghouse during summer months! Bring your dog inside during heat waves if possible. Plant trees to provide shade. You can also create shade with tarps and pieces of plywood.
15. **Fill up a plastic kiddie pool for hot summer months.** Dogs enjoy cooling off in a pool as much as we do. What a cheap way to ease those hot summer days for a dog!



16. **Consider finding a new home** for your dog if you cannot meet his or her needs. Talk to your humane society, place an ad in the paper, or contact friends and family about a new placement for your dog. If you can't provide for your dog, finding him a new home is the kindest thing you can do for him.

Your dog deserves more than being a prisoner in your backyard.

Consider give him some freedom.

# Does Chaining Create Good Guard Dogs?

No!

**Chaining creates aggression in dogs. But aggression is not the same thing as protectiveness.**

There is a difference between raising a protective dog and an aggressive dog. A *protective dog* is used to being around people and can tell when his family is being threatened. A dog learns to be protective by spending lots of time with people and by learning to know and love his human family. When your dog loves you and your family, he will want to protect you from harm.

Leaving a dog on a chain and ignoring him is how to raise an *aggressive dog*. Aggressive dogs can't distinguish between a threat and a family friend, because they are not used to people. Aggressive dogs will attack anyone. They will attack children who wander into the yard, a policeman, the meter reader, the mailman, other dogs, etc.

If your aggressive dog attacks someone in your yard or breaks loose from his chain and attacks, you are in danger of being sued, prosecuted, and required to pay the medical bills of the injured person. Your dog will probably be put to sleep if he attacks someone, even if the attack occurs on your property.

In 2004 alone, chained dogs killed at least 6 children and seriously injured 21 children in the U.S. Is your chained dog going to be the next one to kill a child? Visit [www.UnchainYourDog.org](http://www.UnchainYourDog.org) to read about these attacks and others.

**A chained dog can't do anything to stop an intruder! All he can do is bark.**

Do you really get up to investigate every time your dog barks? Barking is simply not an effective means of guarding your house.

**Statistics show that an inside dog is one of the most effective security measures.**

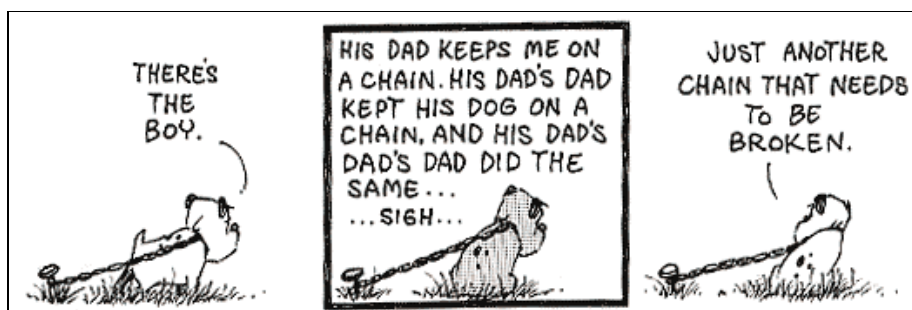
There are news stories all the time about inside dogs that save their families from fires, intruders, and even gas leaks. A robber will think twice about breaking into your home if he hears and sees a dog on the other side of the door. A robber will not think twice about breaking into your home if there is a chained dog in the backyard barking.

**K9 police dogs are extremely effective guard dogs, and they usually live inside with the policeman and his family.**

K9 police officers know that in order to get the smartest, most protective dog possible, they need to spend hours and hours with the dog. Police dogs become a beloved part of the police officer's family. They are not chained and neglected in the yard. They are treated with kindness by the officers. This kindness makes the dog want to protect the officer.

**If all you want is a burglar alarm, consider an electronic one.**

Installation is usually free, and the small monthly fee will cost you about the same amount as feeding a dog. An electronic alarm is certainly more effective than a dog, too! When your alarm goes off for more than a minute or so, the police will be sent to your home. And a piercing alarm will sound the whole time.



Muttis, by Patrick McDonnell

# Dog Care and Behavior

Teaching your dog to be a well-behaved member of your family will take time, but will be well-worth it as your dog becomes a beloved friend and companion.

Dogs who are used to being chained can certainly make great house dogs, but sometimes require additional attention. Be prepared for a dog who is used to being outside to act overexcited when first coming inside the house. Don't give up!

Your dog will calm way down once he his used to being inside. He is just excited about being in a new place, with new smells and new things to experience.

**The most important thing to remember about dogs is that they are pack animals, genetically bred to work, play, eat, and sleep with company. You do your dog a disservice if you keep him in the backyard alone all or most of the time. A dog wants to be part of a family!**



TJ used to live on a chain, and is now a great house dog!

## Behavior Tips

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- **Barking**  
Chained dogs often bark out of frustration and loneliness. Just getting your dog off the chain will reduce barking. Some dogs bark more at night. Bringing your dog inside at night should stop barking entirely!  
  
Dogs who are well-exercised and happy are less likely to bark. Walk your dog and let him get to know the neighborhood so he won't feel threatened by it. A tired, happy dog will sleep instead of bark.  
  
Prevent chronic barking by teaching the word "Quiet." After your dog starts barking, startle him with a noise (like calling his name) or by tapping a treat on his nose. When he is silent, say "Quiet" and reward him. Then you can use the command "Quiet" to stop barking.
- **Begging**  
Decide at the beginning that no one will feed the dog from the table. Don't allow guests to break this rule. Feed the dog before your meal, and he won't be hungry.
- **Biting**  
Every time puppy bites on your finger say, "Ouch"--not the way a person would say it, but the way a puppy would say it...high-pitched and loud. Puppy will think he's hurting you. Ignore the puppy for a few minutes afterward. Never grab, squeeze or pop them on the nose. This will escalate the behavior.
- **Destroying Property**  
Never leave your new dog unconfined when you leave the house. You are asking for trouble if you let an untrained dog have full run of the house! A crate, playpen or small room is best. Privileges are earned and your new dog must be mature and trained enough to be responsible before you give him total freedom. Leave him with plenty of appropriate things to chew on while you are away.  
  
Provide him with soft and hard rubber chew toys, along with a tug toy or rope and chew treats. These should be readily available at all times. Stuff hollow toys with treats and food to keep their interest and teach proper chewing habits. Get your dog used to being alone so he doesn't chew out of nervousness. Gradually leave the dog alone for longer periods of time. Don't just leave; say goodbye in the same way every time. Both leaving and returning should always be low key.
- **Digging**  
Provide your dog with his own sandbox. Bury toys in it and teach him it's okay to dig in there. Protect gardens with chicken wire or plastic fencing.
- **Jumping On People**  
As your dog jumps on you, either back away or turn away, saying nothing. Do this every time she jumps. Do not make any eye, voice or physical contact. This is what the dog wants from you. Only give the dog attention when all four feet are on the floor.

Go online or visit your local library for information about dog training and behavior. To find information online, search for specific terms such as: *dog barking, introducing new dog, dog jumping, dog aggression, etc.*

# Houstraining Tips

## The Golden Rule of Houstraining is...

NEVER let an un-houstrained dog out of your sight while the dog is inside! Every time a dog relieves himself inside, it teaches him that it is OK to go inside. An un-houstrained dog should be either: **(1)** inside, under your supervision; **(2)** outside; or **(3)** in a crate. If you follow these rules of houstraining, your dog should be houstrained in only a week or two. And yes, adult dogs can be houstrained!

- Dogs are clean animals and always prefer to keep their home clean. Your dog wants to do the right thing once he knows what it is. You must show your dog the preferred spot for eliminating-outside!
- The best method of house training is the crate method. Buy a pet carrier or cage only big enough for the dog to stand up, turn around, and lay down in. This will be the dog's "den" and sleeping place. It goes against a dog's instinct to foul his sleeping place. Even young puppies will try their best not to go inside their crate.
- On the dog's first day home, let him wander in and out of the crate at will. Place a blanket or towel in the crate along with some dog treats and toys. Let him get the idea that the kennel is his own private room. Put it where it's out of the way, yet where the dog is near the family and can watch what is going on.
- Young puppies must be taken outside many times a day. Young puppies need to eliminate within 30 minutes of playing, eating, sleeping, drinking or exercising. Older dogs need to go out four or more times daily. Always take the dog to the SAME spot outdoors. The smell will remind him why he's there.
- When puppy relieves himself outside, PRAISE him, "Good Dog!!" and give him a treat. Praise for good behavior is the key to houstraining! A dog will quickly associate going outside with treats, and will be eager to relieve himself outside.
- If you're inside and notice the dog starting to sniff and circle, quickly grab him up or encourage him to go outside. If you catch him in mid-stream, startle the pup with a noise, and then take him outside. Stay to praise him if he finishes.
- What if you notice a mess on the floor but didn't see your dog do it? Just clean up the mess without scolding the dog. Dogs are not able to associate past mistakes with a correction from you. You must catch the dog in the act for your correction to be effective. Rubbing the dogs' nose in the mess or hitting him with a newspaper will just shame him and lead him to relieve himself in hidden places inside.
- Use a cleaner that will kill smells and bacteria, such as Simple Green (grocery stores), Nature's Miracle (pet stores), or vinegar and water. If you don't thoroughly clean up the spot, the dog might return to that spot and the smell might make him feel the urge to go inside.
- Remember, dogs don't like to foul their den. At bedtime, take the dog outside and then lock him in his crate for the night. He'll make an effort not to foul his bed. Then take him outside first thing in the morning. Some young puppies may not have the muscle control to hold it all night and will have to be taken out during the night.
- Don't feed your dog after about 6:00 pm. This will help the dog to make it through the night with no accidents.
- Dogs can be left in a crate up to 4-6 hours. Dogs should not be left in a crate for more than 8 hours. If you cannot come home during the day while houstraining, consider leaving the dog outside to prevent accidents inside.
- Some tips to make houstraining easier: Hang a jingle bell on the door and jingle it when you take your dog out to potty. Your dog should learn to ring the bell when he needs to go outside. Install a dog door. Dog doors are a wonderful invention! Dogs quickly learn to come and go on their own. You can buy dog doors at pet stores and discount stores.



# Installing a Trolley System

## A trolley or dog run isn't the best solution for helping a chained dog!

Please consider building a fence or bringing your dog inside instead of putting your dog on a dog run. Dogs need to be able to run free. Would you want to live your life chained? Neither does your dog!

A one-time investment in a fence will improve your property value and improve your dog's life immeasurably. If your dog is a fence-jumper, there are alternatives to chaining your dog (see page 1.)

However, a trolley/dog run is better than a fixed chain. Installing a trolley system is easy. A trolley system is like a clothesline that the dog is attached to by a leash. The leash is attached to the line by a rolling trolley. The dog can run back and forth the length of the line.

You can buy dog runs from Petsmart, Walmart and other pet and discount stores. You can order them from these stores' websites. Trolley kits include easy instructions. You can also buy the individual parts to a trolley (line, trolley, hooks for the posts/trees) at home improvement stores such as Home Depot or Lowe's. Ask a worker to show you what you need to put up a dog trolley.

Don't forget to take your dog on frequent walks!

We have found that the brand of trolley that works best is: Prestige® Skyline Aerial Dog Run. This trolley's attachments are made of metal rather than plastic, so they are stronger and less likely to break.

You can attach a stronger downline (leash) to the trolley for strong dogs. You can replace the downline in the package with the Prestige Beast Tie-Out.



## The Easiest Method

The easiest way to attach a trolley is to run it between two trees. It will only take you a few minutes to run the trolley between the trees. If you don't have two trees, you can easily sink posts into the ground and run the trolley between the posts. Or you can use a tree and one post.

### IMPORTANT!

**Make sure to put the trolley system in a place where the dog won't get tangled up or be able to jump a fence. If there is a fence in place, and the dog jumps over on his leash, he could be hung.**

The trolley kit should include **stoppers** that you can put anywhere on the line to stop the trolley. For instance, if you want the dog to stop four feet from one end of the line, you can put a stopper at four feet from the end of the line. The trolley won't be able to get past the stopper.



You can buy extra stoppers at home improvement stores. Ask for **rope clamps**. Be sure and pick the size that will work best for the size of your line. If the clamp is too big, it will slide around on the line.



Mutts, by Patrick McDonnell



Maggie lived on a six-foot chain for seven years. You can see how little room she had to move around.

Because Maggie can jump the fence, we had to keep her from getting too close to the fence on her trolley. Otherwise, she could jump over and hang herself. We put a stopper (rope clamp) on the line a few feet from the fence. The stopper keeps Maggie from getting too close to the fence. Now, Maggie has much more room, and RUNS back and forth on her line. She likes having her choice of spots to curl up and sleep in.

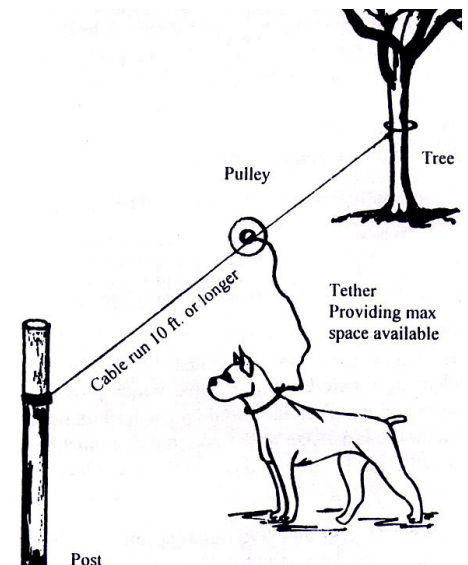
## How to Set a Post

### Materials:

- Strong wooden post. The post should be long enough to allow for about 1.5 feet under the ground, and 5-7 feet above ground. Ideally, the post should be tall enough for someone to walk under the trolley line. The post needs to be several inches thick so it won't snap.
- One 40 lb. bag of concrete mix per post. You can use quick-set.
- Stick or dowel.
- Water from a bucket or hose.
- Shovel or post-hole digger.

### Instructions:

1. Dig a hole for the post. The post needs to be at least 1 1/2 or two feet underground.
2. Put a few rocks in the bottom of the hole, then set the post in the hole. It's easiest if you have someone to hold the post in the center of the hole.
3. Pour about one-third of the concrete mix into the hole (pour it around the post). Pour about half a gallon of water into the hole and stir the concrete around with the stick.
4. Keep adding concrete mix and stirring in water in until the hole is filled with the concrete mix. Refer to the directions on the package.
5. Cover the concrete with the dirt from the hole you dug. Pile dirt or rocks around the bottom of the post to keep it in place while the concrete sets.
6. In 24 hours, your post should be set with regular concrete. With quick-set, your post will be ready in an hour.



# How to Build a Mesh Fence

You can purchase all materials at farm supply stores such as Tractor Supply Company or stores such as Home Depot.

## Supplies

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1. **Posts.** You can choose metal T-posts or wooden posts. You can get wooden posts cut to specifications. If you tell a store worker the dimensions of your fence, they can suggest how many posts you will need. Generally, you will place posts about 7-10 feet apart.
2. **Mesh cloth.** It comes in rolls, in different strengths. Your fence will be stronger if you get a strong mesh (such as the welded wire below.)
3. **Baling wire or metal ties** to attach the mesh to the posts. Baling wire comes in a roll and can be cut into pieces. A heavy duty staple gun can also be used to attach mesh fencing to wooden posts.
4. **Concrete** if setting wooden posts. Metal T-posts are also stronger if set in concrete. Ask store workers to advise you on how many bags to get for the type of posts you are using. Usually one 40-lb bag of concrete can be used to set two posts.
5. **Shovel** or post hole digger if setting posts in concrete.



*Thin mesh and T-post*



*Strong mesh fencing*

## Instructions

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- Determine where you want your fence to go. You can push wooden stakes into the ground where you plan to have the corners of your fence, and tie string from stake to stake. You can then place your posts along the string.
- Pound T-posts into the ground with a hammer or set them into the ground with concrete. Wooden posts should be set in concrete.
- At least 1.5 feet of the post should be underground. T-posts should be inserted into the ground until the "V" that extends out from the post is covered.
- The closer you place the posts to each other, the stronger the fence will be. For instance, if the posts were 15 feet apart the fencing would sag in the middle.
- Attach the mesh to T-posts with wire ties or baling wire. Attach the mesh at the top of the post, in the middle of the post, and at the bottom of the post.
- Fencing can be attached to wooden posts with wire or with a heavy-duty staple gun.
- A gate will work best if attached to a post set in concrete. You can purchase gates at home improvement stores. You can also make a gate out of wood and mesh fencing.



*The wooden gate is attached to the wood post with a simple door hinge. A slide lock was also added to help keep the fence shut. A bike lock can also be used to keep the gate firmly shut.*

## Make Your Chain Link Fence Higher

To make your chain link fence higher, purchase a roll of mesh fencing material, also called hardware cloth. It is available at home improvement stores such as Home Depot, and at hardware and farm supply stores.

Mesh cloth comes in different strengths. Some mesh is very thin and easy to bend (like chicken wire) and some is quite thick and sturdy. Select some that is strong enough to stay upright at the top of your fence but light enough for you to bend it into place.

Roll out the fencing and attach it to the top of your chain link fence. You can attach it with lengths of pre-cut wire ties or pieces of baling wire. Baling wire comes in a roll and you can snip it to the desired length.

Below you can see the mesh fencing attached to the top of the chain link fence. The mesh is strong enough to stand upright on it's own.



The above photographs show the mesh wire connected to the chain link fence. Wire ties were threaded through the mesh, around the pole at the top of the fence, and twisted shut.

This project took just a few hours and it WORKED! The owner had a dog who continually jumped the fence. After extending the height of her fence, the dog was no longer able to escape. A success!

If you are unable to attach wire directly to the top of your fence, you can install tall T-posts every 6 feet or so along the fence. You can then attach the mesh across the tops of the T-posts. You can hammer the T-posts into the ground with a sledgehammer.

Please visit [www.UnchainYourDog.org](http://www.UnchainYourDog.org) and [www.DogsDeserveBetter.org](http://www.DogsDeserveBetter.org) to learn more about how to improve the lives of chained dogs.