

March 8, 2010

To the Environment Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Chairs and members of the Committee.

I am writing this in support of the Dog Chaining and Confinement Bill, a bill which would more closely define and regulate the time a dog may be chained and other considerations such as how much space must be allowed.

I will start by saying that a bill such as this is long overdue.

Dogs chained outside for any significant time are vulnerable to all kinds of weather conditions and pests such as fleas and ticks. In addition, dogs chained outside suffer very greatly from loneliness. A dog is a natural family (pack) animal. Chaining him alone is not just a living condition, it is a cruel punishment.. Also they are naturally inquisitive and need to roam and explore. Dogs chained outside feel and are very defenseless. They cannot fight very well, neither can they run very far. They are vulnerable to predators (coyotes, bobcat, rabid animals) . They are vulnerable to being stolen or possibly abused by humans. No dog should ever be put in this unfair and dangerous disadvantage. Because they sense their defenselessness, chained dogs are in a constant state of anxiety, vigilance, and a ready-to-fight- state of mind. They become overly aggressive even when not called for. This is how you create a vicious dog. Dogs tied by a neck collar and leash may choke trying to fight against it. Some have even been strangled. Dogs on long leashes may become entangled and immobilized, a particularly uncomfortable and dangerous state.

For these reasons, dogs should never be chained outside except for short periods, in good weather and only when human supervision is available.

The above information was extrapolated from an interview I had with an Animal Control Officer for the purpose of airing our conversation as a show on public access television.

Thank you for your attention, I hope you will support this bill.

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