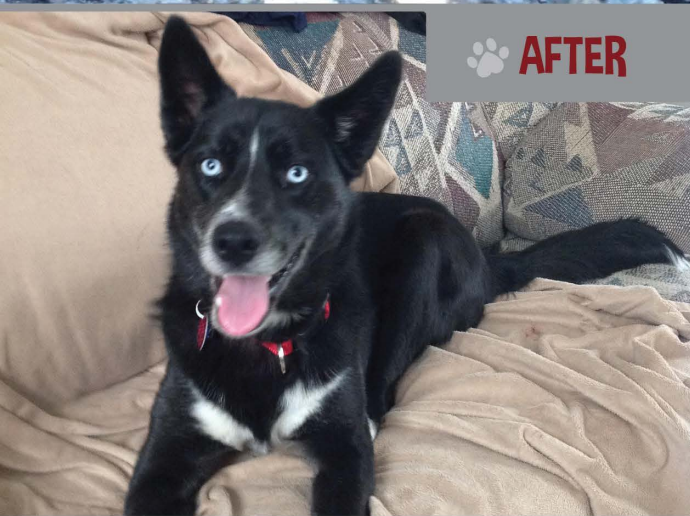




**BEFORE**








**AFTER**

Chained dogs may suffer from depression. They are isolated from their human family with no understanding of why they have been left alone for hours, if not days. Such lack of contact can cause a once happy, alert animal to sink into a level of despair that can affect them not only psychologically but also physically.

Chained dogs are caught in a vicious cycle. The longer they stay chained, the more likely they will develop negative behaviors, making it more difficult to handle them. The more difficult they become, the less likely a human will want to have them in the home. They are caught in a downward spiral, not of their own making.

## What Can You Do?

-  If your dog is chained outdoors for all or part of the day, consider bringing him or her indoors.
-  If there are behavioral issues you need to correct, contact a local trainer for help so you can live successfully with your dog indoors.
-  If you see a dog chained outdoors all the time, and you feel comfortable speaking with the dog's owner, share this pamphlet with the owner.
-  If your community does not have laws regarding the humane treatment of chained dogs, talk with your local legislators and concerned citizens to enact an ordinance that would prevent the chaining of dogs as a primary means of confinement.
-  If you see a dog who is truly suffering, contact your local animal control or sheriff's department immediately.

**Thank you  
for caring!**



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# LIFE ON A CHAIN







Dogs chained outdoors for most or all of the day live sad and lonely lives. Many suffer mental and physical torment, which can lead to aggressive behavior. Dogs are highly social pack animals; they need companionship as much as they need food and water. Why have a dog if all he or she is going to do is spend all or part of a lifetime at the end of a chain? Some dog owners chain their dogs for brief periods of time because they do not have a fenced yard. That kind of chaining is not what is being addressed here. Rather, this brochure addresses long-term chaining that occurs for more than half of a typical day.

## Why Do People Chain Dogs?

People chain dogs for a variety of reasons:



They've always had chained dogs. It was considered normal.



The dog is too big to live indoors.



The dog isn't house trained.



The dog sheds.

All of these reasons can be eliminated by:



Changing the family tradition.



Adopting a small dog.



Taking time to house train the dog as soon as he or she comes into the home.



Engaging in routine grooming, which is beneficial to both the dog and owner.

## Life at the End of the Chain

Many chained dogs spend their lives connected to a 6' or shorter metal chain. These dogs are forced to eat, drink, urinate, defecate, and sleep in the same place with no stimulation or companionship. This living death persists through blistering heat and freezing cold, rain, snow, and wind. Their home turns into a filthy and muddy mess, dust bowl, or frozen landscape. If shelter is provided, it is often inadequate.

Chained dogs typically receive little to no human attention, veterinary care, or fresh food and water on a regular basis. In hot climates, water bowls evaporate and in cold ones they freeze. Food becomes infested with insects or rots having been exposed to air, light, and bacteria for days on end.

A chained dog may suffer inescapable torment from passing humans and attacks by other animals. They may be stolen for sale to research institutions or to people who engage in dog fighting (an illegal activity in all 50 states).

Feeling bored, threatened, and vulnerable on a daily basis, many chained dogs will lunge at anything that goes by them. Thus, they pose a serious danger to small animals and children. Furthermore, the constant lunging may cause the dog's collar to tear into the skin and can, in some cases, become imbedded in the dog's neck. The chain can become tangled around objects. Some dogs have hanged themselves during attempts to jump over objects.

