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9 CONTESTANTS REMAIN LIVING AS CHAINED DOGS IN UNIQUE PENNSYLVANIA CONTEST

11 Contestants Began Living Chained July 1st; July 3rd, 9 Remain

Altoona, PA—Dogs Deserve Better, a nonprofit working to bring dogs into the home and family, has kicked off its first-ever Chain Off Contest at Leidy Park in Mundys Corner, Pennsylvania approximately 1 hour east of Pittsburgh. Of the 15 people slated to compete, 10 showed up, plus an alternate for a total of 11.

Contestants from Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Florida, South Carolina, and New York converged on the little town of Mundys Corner, PA to begin a contest like no other. They are living chained to doghouses until only one remains, up to a period of two weeks. They are competing to survive the boredom of this life . . . no books, TV, radio, smoking, or even visitors, except for members of the press. For only 1/2 hour each day they may see family members or call home, reach out for some semblance of normality. They are allowed the bare minimum in hygiene, no showers or baths, but only cleanliness routines undertaken within the confines of four tiny port-a-john walls. They are stripped of all the comforts we take so much for granted: in their place, they receive only a chain, a collar, water, food, doghouse, sleeping bag, and shade.

Tammy Grimes, founder of the organization states, "They may cry, knowing the pain and suffering chained dogs endure, day in, day out—often for life. One of them will walk away with a new car...but more importantly, none of them will walk away unchanged. The knowledge they now bear may make it virtually impossible to look at a chained dog without a knowing of what it feels like to be that dog."

Corey Hool, of Beaverdale, Pennsylvania, was the first to drop out--after only 4 hours. Susan Fitzgerald, of Oswego, New York, dropped out second, after 24 hours, as the first thunderstorm threatened the skies.

Susan wrote in her journal: "I am not a writer, I am not a dog. I am not a waterproof vest, or a loner, or a woman of steel....I am not allowed anything. I am not. After one day, I am not."

To view photos, excerpts from all contestant journals, and vote for the People's Choice Award Winner, go to <http://www.dogsdeservebetter.com/chainoffday1.html>.

Dogs Deserve Better is a 501c3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tipton, Pennsylvania, is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector Award, and currently has 141 area reps in 37 states as well as in Canada and Australia.