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100 DOG ADVOCATES EXPECTED TO LIVE CHAINED TO DOGHOUSES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF ARCHAIC PRACTICE

**South Carolina main event plus locations nationwide will seek
Freedom for Chained Dogs through the Independence Day Weekend**

May 12, 2009, Altoona, PA—Dogs Deserve Better, a nonprofit working to bring dogs into the home and family, has finalized plans for its Chain Off 2009: Freedom for Chained Dogs Event, which will take place between June 27th and July 12th, 2009. Chain Off has been held annually around the 4th of July since 2004, highlighting the reality that while Americans are celebrating their own freedom, there are tens of thousands of Man's Best Friends in every state who are still not free: America's chained and penned dogs.

These dogs are found in backyards stretching from Delaware to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii, all throughout the provinces of Canada, and in countries around the world.

The event has evolved from one woman chaining herself to a doghouse in 2004 for 33 hours, to 85 people chaining themselves in 30 states during last year's 2008 Chain Off to raise awareness for chained dogs.

Tamira Ci Thayne, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, states, "We chose July 4th for this event because it symbolizes the Freedom of America, a nation's Independence. Yet we call attention to those who are still not free—dogs who spend their entire lives at the end of a chain or enclosed 24/7 in a small, lonely pen. Dogs want nothing more than to be with us, their pack, and leaving them in solitary confinement is devastating for both the dog and the caring neighbors who are forced to witness the neglect."

The group is firming up plans to hold its main event in South Carolina, where at least a dozen advocates from all over the U.S. will live chained to doghouses for 24 hours, and citizens and volunteers are setting up nationwide locations to join the campaign.

Laws against chaining dogs for life are a growing trend in America, with three states enacting laws limiting chaining, and over 140 cities and counties nationwide joining in.

See the website at www.dogsdeservebetter.org for complete Chain Off 2009 information and a growing list of locations or to sponsor the nationwide event.

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 over 140 area reps in 36 states as well as in Canada.