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DOGS FREEZE IN BELOW ZERO WIND CHILLS NATIONWIDE AS THEY AWAIT BETTER LAWS TO PROTECT THEM

Group Seeks to Limit Chaining of Dogs in All Areas



January 12, 2010, Altoona, PA — "Little Dog," a 25-lb. black and white foo foo dog of indiscriminate breed, stands in the snow outside his doghouse. The temperature overnight is 7 degrees, with a wind chill of -11, yet his caretakers fail to bring him inside.

He's not alone in his suffering. "Black Dog," an underweight lab mix, shivers involuntarily while he eats food brought by Dogs Deserve Better volunteers. He has ice on his head and buttocks from attempting to stay warm in a doghouse with no floor and holes in the sides. How he's survived the night is unknown.

This scenario repeats itself in towns all across our nation, as dogs await bet-

ter laws which will protect them from both the cruelties of man and freezing temperatures. As winter storms ravage the country, bringing below-zero wind chills and arctic temperatures in many areas, dogs hold on as best they can. Those that freeze to death are rarely reported, quickly disposed of by owners looking to avoid legal consequences for their failure to properly care for their pets.

Dogs Deserve Better, a national nonprofit organization which works solely on behalf of chained and penned dogs, warns that chaining of dogs on a continual basis is cruel for many reasons, not the least of which is the danger of death in sub-zero temperatures. Because dogs are pack animals, they can become neurotic or aggressive due to lack of socialization with humans, and in 2009 alone at least 55 children in the U.S. were killed or seriously injured enough to make headlines after attacks by chained or penned dogs.

The real tragedy is that the cruelty and danger caused by tethering dogs is completely avoidable through legislation. Laws limiting or banning chaining result in safer towns for our children and more compassionate living for Man's Best Friend.

"Dogs Deserve Better has received hundreds of calls this winter of dogs freezing and even dying outdoors as bitter cold sweeps the nation. I have personally advocated for 'Little Dog' for the past seven years, and have gotten nowhere. This small dog—who should be sitting on a lap somewhere or enjoying family trips in the car—instead grows older and sadder with each passing year. Before this, I watched as the old



shepherd who was chained next to Little Dog grew frailer and frailer, eventually dying at the end of his/her chain, never having known human companionship or kindness," says Tamira Ci Thayne, founder and CEO of Dogs Deserve Better. "Sadly, only better laws and adequate enforcement of these laws will ensure humane treatment of dogs and end continual tethering. Together, we have the power to pass laws and end the cruel practice of constant tethering."

So far four states have passed limitations on chaining: California, Texas, Connecticut, and Nevada. Hundreds of cities and counties have passed limitations or flat-out bans.

Please visit the website at DogsDeserveBetter.org to learn more about dog chaining, the reasons it is cruel to dogs and dangerous to humans, and to find a local area representative.

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