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HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE TO DIE BEFORE THE NATION ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHAINING AND DOG ATTACKS?

33 Children since October 2003 Seriously Injured/Killed as a Result of Chained Dog Attacks

The Sunday, April 10th attack is the latest in a long line of chained dog attacks, and left 4 year old Robert Shafer of Orange County, Virginia dead and the small community in shaken silence.

“The dog was in a pen and on a chain, but the boy must have pushed the gate open like this,” said Bertha Miller, 68, who has lived in the community of about 25 closely spaced trailers for about a decade. The dog “broke his little neck.”

Dogs Deserve Better, an organization working to get dogs off chains and into the family, insists that it's time America woke up to the dangers of chaining a dog. Dogs are pack animals, and when left alone, chained, and unsocialized to humans, they often become angry; they can and do take this anger out on the children who are unlucky enough to come too close.

Says Tammy Sneath Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, “How many children have to die before our lawmakers get the connection between chaining a dog outside, unsocialized, and the resulting ever-present danger of death and injury to small children? The chaining of dogs has been ongoing for generations in America, and this outdated and irresponsible method of guardianship must stop. Much of Europe has long eschewed the practice of dog chaining; Austria's recent nationwide law prohibits chaining, and it's time America wake up and catch up. Not only is it dangerous and cruel for the dog, but it's dangerous for any child unlucky enough to wander into the sphere created by an angry dog's chain.”

Other nationwide attacks since October 2003:

March, 2005: Pharis Fish, 4, Alabama, seriously injured

February, 2005: 2 unnamed girls, 10, Texas, injured; boy Petrie, 4, New York, injured; Kaylin Flowers, 4, Florida, seriously injured; Kendra Odums, 5, North Carolina, injured

January, 2005: Tamra Kuester, 8, Illinois, seriously injured

December, 2004: Krysta Cross, 4, Virginia, seriously injured; Myles Leakes, 4, Florida, killed

November, 2004: Breel Thomas, 18 mo., Tennessee, seriously injured



September, 2004: Isaiah Smith, 19 months, South Carolina, killed; Robert Fowler, 5, Arkansas, injured; Kaylee Chewning, 5, Illinois, injured

August, 2004: Summer Baumgardner, 9, Pennsylvania, seriously injured

July, 2004: Willie Moore, 7, North Carolina, seriously injured; Patricia Anderson, 2, Georgia, killed; Daniel Foster, 10, Ohio, seriously injured; Erica Lybarger, 5, Texas, seriously injured

June, 2004: Emma-Leigh Chambers-Allen, 5, New Mexico, seriously injured; Kennedy Robinson, 20-months, Mississippi, seriously injured

April, 2004: Emily Page Stinnett, 4, Kentucky, seriously injured; Linda Wiegret, 14-months, Texas, seriously injured; Mark Wilson, 8, Illinois, seriously injured; Alani Black, 4, North Carolina, seriously injured

March, 2004: unnamed child, Florida, injured; Meredith Bell, 8, North Carolina, injured

February, 2004: Trusten Liddle, 17-month-old, Hawaii, killed

January, 2004: Kaitlyn Matthews, 5, Mississippi, seriously injured; Nathan Roy Hill, 3, North Carolina, killed

October, 2003: Makayla Sinclair, 2, South Carolina, killed; Jonathan Shane Ivey, 4, Texas, seriously injured; Okleno King, 3, Mississippi, seriously injured.

Karen Delise, author of *Fatal Dog Attacks*, has researched and chronicled the circumstances surrounding every fatal dog attack in the United States since 1965. "Chained dogs have killed at least 127 people. Of the 127 people, 112 were children that wandered into reach of a chained or similarly restrained dog. Another 11 occurred from dogs who were chained and broke free before attacking." She also states in her book: "Statistically, chained dogs are more dangerous than free-running packs of dogs."

America needs nationwide laws prohibiting the chaining of dogs to the nearest tree, post, or doghouse. Dogs Deserve Better has initiated a national petition against chaining, and has numerous programs to help bring dogs out of the backyard and into the home and family. They also offer public service announcements available to all tv stations willing to run the :30 spot.

Grimes continues, "We must stand NOW to insist on the laws being changed to protect the innocent, both humans and dogs. It's too crucial to NOT do so. The lost lives and changed futures of our nation's children and families depend on it."

To contact Dogs Deserve Better go to their website at www.dogsdeservebetter.com.