

DO YOU LEAVE YOUR DOG ALONE OUTSIDE?



There are a variety of reasons why people leave their dogs outside. Many people *believe* that dogs *should* live outside, and they keep the dog outside because he or she is not house-trained and may chew up things. Or maybe the dog has grown too large to be inside, or has developed a behavioral problem that the owner is unable to deal with, so the dog stays in the yard. Or perhaps the dog is kept outside to protect the home.

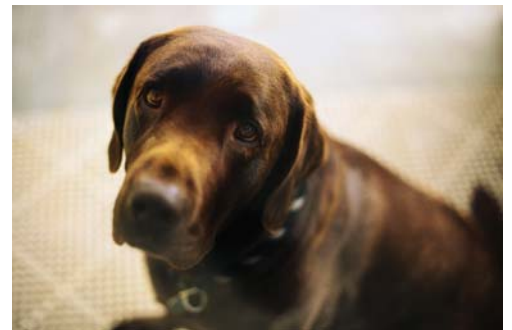
Whatever the reasons, many dog owners seem to be keeping their dogs outside. There are many reasons why your pet should not be kept outside all the time without social interaction with the family. **It is inhumane to keep animals caged like the photo above or chained like the photo below!**



WHY?

First, more people are learning that isolating a dog from the family is **bad for dogs**. As pack animals, dogs have been bred for thousands of years to form a strong attachment to a human family. An otherwise friendly and happy dog, when kept continually isolated, often becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious, frustrated and aggressive. Isolated dogs that are left in the yard alone are also subject to attacks by other animals and cruel humans.

1. **What is meant by “isolating” dogs?** This means a dog(s) is left outside in the yard or confined to a small space in the yard without any interaction from the family. The only interaction the dog may have is when the owner gives the dog food and water. Often times the dog is left alone with NO interaction with the owners.
2. **Why is isolating a dog inhumane?** Dogs are naturally social beings who thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. A dog isolated in the yard or confined to a small space everyday, months, or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously isolated (even if they are changed spots) becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious, frustrated and often aggressive.
3. **Is there a problem with continuous “Isolating” a dog? YES!** The practice is both inhumane and a threat to the safety of the isolated dog, other animals and humans.



4. **Who says isolating or chaining up dogs is inhumane?** In addition to The Humane Society of the United States and numerous animal experts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a statement in the July 2, 1996, Federal Register against tethering:
"Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury."
5. **How does isolating or chaining up dogs pose a danger to humans?** **Dogs tethered for long periods can become highly aggressive.** Dogs feel naturally protective of their territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory. Numerous attacks on people by tethered dogs have been documented. For example, a study published in the September 15, 2000, issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* reported that 17% of dogs involved in fatal attacks on humans between 1979 and 1998 were restrained on their owners' property at the time of the attack. Tragically, the victims of such attacks are often children who are unaware of the chained dog's presence until it is too late. Furthermore, a tethered dog who finally does get loose from his chains may remain aggressive, and is likely to chase and attack unsuspecting passersby and pets.
6. **Why is Isolating or Chaining up dogs dangerous to dogs?** In addition to the **psychological damage** wrought by continuous chaining, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans, and biting insects. A chained animal may **suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans, stinging bites from insects, and, in the worst cases, attacks by other animals.** Chained dogs are also **easy targets for thieves looking to steal animals for sale** to research institutions or to be used as training fodder for organized animal fights. Finally, dogs' tethers can become **entangled with other objects, which can choke or strangle the dogs to death.** Dogs that are left outside tied up begin to **feel very isolated, lonely, frustrated, and depressed** – they want to be with their owners and feel like they are part of the family (part of the pack).
7. **Are "Isolated" - "Chained" dogs otherwise treated well?** **Rarely does a chained or tethered dog receive sufficient care.** Tethered dogs suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, and extreme temperatures. During snowstorms, these dogs often have no access to shelter. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. What's more, because their often-neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely **given the minimal affection.** Tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.
8. **Are the areas in which an Isolated or Chained dog confined to usually comfortable?** **NO, because the dogs have to eat, sleep, urinate, and defecate in a single confined area.** Owners who chain their dogs are also less likely to clean the area. Although there may have once been grass in an area of confinement, it is usually so beaten down by the dog's pacing that the ground consists of nothing but dirt or mud.
9. **But what can the owner do instead of Isolating or chaining their dog?** The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) recommends that **all dogs be kept indoors at night,** taken on **regular walks,** and otherwise **provided with adequate attention, food, water, and veterinary care.** If an animal must be **housed outside at certain times,** he should be placed in a suitable yard with adequate square footage and shelter from the elements. **Pets should have plenty of interaction with the family – there should be no reason why the pet cannot spend quality time indoors with the family and play with them outdoors.**
10. **SMALL dogs should NEVER be left ISOLATED in the yard (or in a small area) and NEVER should be left tied up outside** – **Teach your dog to get house-trained and keep them indoors and if there is no fence then the owners MUST be responsible and secure their yards (put up a fence) so that their pet does not get**

out. There should be no reason why a dog should be left in a confined area day in and day out and **NO REASON WHY** you should leave them tied up outside – **ESPECIALLY A SMALL ANIMAL!**

An Isolated Animal is caught in a vicious cycle; frustrated by long periods of boredom and social isolation, he becomes a neurotic shell of his former self—further deterring human interaction and kindness. In the end, the helpless dog can only suffer the frustration of watching the world go by in isolation - a cruel fate – for what is by nature a highly social animal.

Getting Your Dog Off the Chain



The second reason for the tougher stance on chaining is that many dog owners have learned to solve the problems that caused them to tie their dogs outside in the first place. **If you would like to provide your dog with an alternative to a rope or chain, consider these suggestions:**

- **The best solution is to keep your pet inside your home with you and your family and give them playtime outside.**
- **Install a fence if your property does not already have one.**
- **If you have a fence, but you know your dog is small and**

will fit through the rails – then place something around the bottom of the railing so your pet will not go through and get out. It is more humane to let your pet roam free in your yard rather than have them tied day and night. If that cannot be done – then put up a gate to block off the back yard and the front yard so your pet can be able to roam free in your backyard and not be tied up so he/she won't get out. Be humane and get your pet off the chain....

- **If you have a fence and your dog can jump over it, install a 45-degree inward extension to the top of your existing fence. Many home improvement stores sell these extensions.**
- **If your dog digs under the fence to escape your yard, bury chicken wire to a depth of one foot below where the fence meets the ground (*be sure to bend in the sharp edges*). Or place large rocks at the base of the fence.**
- **If your dog digs where you don't want him to (such as in a garden or flower bed), consider putting plastic garden fencing or a similar barrier around the area. Or provide your dog with his own sandbox. Bury toys in the sandbox and use positive reinforcement to teach your dog that it is okay to dig there.**
- **Enroll your dog in an obedience class—especially if his behavior is the main reason you keep your dog outside.**
- **Spay or neuter your dog if you haven't already done so. A neutered dog is less likely to roam and more content to stay at home. These are safe procedures that have many health and behavioral benefits. Ask your veterinarian for more information.**
- **Remember that behavior problems such as barking, chewing, and digging are often the result of a lack of stimulation. By providing your dog with proper toys, exercise, "people time," and positive reinforcement, you may alter undesirable behaviors and teach acceptable house manners. In addition, a dog who is inside the house is much more likely to deter an intruder than a dog chained in the yard.**

The best solution is **NOT** to tie up *or* chain your pet. **Build a fence around your yard so that your pet can run around and have freedom OR put up a gate to separate your front yard and**

your back yard so your pet can have freedom in your backyard without having to be tied. Make sure they have plenty of shade, food, and fresh clean water all day. Play with your pet – take him/her inside your home to be with the family, walk your pet daily, and make sure to give your pet plenty of attention and love.



This pet is a small poodle that is chained to the front of his house. He does have a sweater on (Which is dangerous because it can get stuck on something), he does have a dog house too – **but he is chained all day and all night**. This poor dog is longing to be with his owners. He wants to be inside with his family. He gets NO ATTENTION and has NO FREEDOM to run around the yard and play freely. This poodle is a small dog that can easily be trained to be inside and go to the bathroom outside. If that is not easy for the owners, then they should secure the front or backyard

gates for him to be able to run around and play without being able to get out rather than being stuck in that spot – chained – all day and all night. The rails in the home are thin enough to not allow the poodle to get out – there was no reason for this poodle to be chained and no reason why this poodle could not have been kept indoors with the family.

HAVE SOME COMPASSION FOR YOUR PET – Your pet wants to be with the family not alone and chained outside.

THINK ABOUT IT – YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO LIVE THIS WAY. WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS OK FOR THEM TO LIVE THAT WAY? HAVE SOME COMPASSION!

Giving Your Dog Proper Shelter

In addition to safe confinement, *dogs need adequate shelter from the elements*. Dogs kept outside may be unintentionally exposed to bitter cold temperatures in the winter and *scorching heat in the summer*. To protect your dog from harsh weather, provide a well-constructed doghouse. However, keep in mind that some breeds with very long or short coats cannot tolerate extreme outside temperatures even when provided with proper shelter. Also remember that if you have more than one dog, you need to provide a doghouse for each one.

To provide your dog with a comfortable doghouse, consider these suggestions:

- The house should be large enough to allow the dog to stand up and turn around comfortably, but small enough to enable the dog to retain body heat.
- The house should have a slanted, waterproof roof to allow rainwater to run off.
- If the doghouse is made of wood, it should be raised off the ground at least two inches to prevent the floor from rotting.
- The door should be just large enough for your dog to enter easily.
- During the winter months, to protect your dog from cold wind, the door should be covered by a flexible plastic flap—such as a floor runner that doesn't have spikes on one side. A piece of carpet can work in a pinch, but it can get wet and freeze.
- Clean, dry bedding such as hay, straw, or cedar shavings should be provided. The bedding should be changed weekly to prevent mold and to keep the doghouse sanitary.
- In warmer months, the dog should also be provided with shade such as a tree or tarp. A *doghouse in direct sun becomes an oven and will not keep a dog cool*.

- Finally, anytime your dog is kept outside, be sure to provide fresh water in a tip-proof bowl or large bucket. Make sure the water doesn't freeze during colder months.

BASIC HEALTH RULES:

1. **FEED** your pet **DAILY**.
2. **PROVIDE CLEAN and COOL WATER** for your pet daily. **KEEP IT IN THE SHADE....**
3. **PROVIDE SHADE** for your pet. It is very **HOT** in El Paso so your pet should have plenty of shade! When you see big holes in your yard where your dog lies in – it is because your dog is **VERY HOT** and is trying to get away from the **HEAT**. Help them by providing a lot of shade.
4. **PROVIDE** proper **SHELTER** for your pet to refuge from the heat and cold weather.
5. **KEEP** your pet well-**GROOMED**. Make sure your pet does not have any knots in their fur (knots are very painful). Make sure that you clip their nails and keep them clean.
6. **PICK UP** the dog **FECES** (poops) daily & dispose of them out of the yard.
7. Taking the dog out for **DAILY WALKS** will improve his physical & mental health.
8. **VACCINATE** your pet and have **TICK** and **FLEA CONTROL**.
9. **GIVE** your pet **HEARTWORM MEDICATION MONTHLY**.
10. **MICROCHIP** your pet. Keep an **ID TAG** on their collar at all times as well.
11. **SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET!**

Early Signs of Heat Stroke:

A dog's body temperature is normally between 101°F and 102°F.

Rapid breathing, dry mouth and nose, rapid heart rate, and gums that leave their healthy color for dull, grayish-pink, or red, are all early stages of heat stroke. **THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!** Even at the earliest stage of heat stroke, you may be fighting for your dog's life. You must get him to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

These symptoms can be followed in minutes by collapse, seizures, coma and death.