

## Don't Be Cruel

Dogs are pack animals that need daily exercise and companionship. You couldn't invent a worse punishment for a dog than keeping him constantly chained and alone. Chained dogs often get aggressive and dangerous. They may bark excessively and are three times more likely to bite. Chaining can be deadly. All too often, dogs are strangled by their chains. By law, chaining your dog to a stationary object is no longer an option. There are safe, humane, and convenient alternatives:

### Bring Your Dog Indoors

Your dog wants to be part of your family. Ask your vet, go online, or read books from the library or pet store to learn about housetraining. Inside the home with the human family is the best place for your dog to be, especially during freezing weather. And inside dogs make the best guard dogs, because they are actually able to protect their human family.

### Fence Your Yard

Home improvement stores sell fencing supplies and will advise you on installation. If your dog escapes your fence, install fence extensions or an electronic containment device. You can also attach slick reed/bamboo fencing to your fence, which is difficult for dogs to climb (available by the roll at home improvement stores). Stop diggers by lining the bottom of the fence with cement blocks or heavy wire, or by burying chicken wire underneath the fence.

### Know the Seasons

Fill doghouses with warm bedding (cedar shavings work well) for warmth in winter. In summer, doghouses can become dangerously hot. Provide shade with a tree or tarp and use a water-filled baby pool to keep your dog cool. Also remember that fleas and ticks make a dog miserable, so use flea treatment (available from your vet, pet store, or grocery store).

## Be a Good Owner

Keep your dog happy, healthy, and well adjusted:

### Spay or Neuter Your Dog

**Each year, thousands of healthy dogs and cats are euthanized at local shelters.** Help reduce pet overpopulation by sterilizing your dog. Sterilization won't change your dog's personality, but it will reduce the risk of certain types of cancer. Also, an unaltered dog is more likely to try to escape. Ask your vet about the benefits of sterilization and log on to [www.localrescue.org](http://www.localrescue.org) for vouchers and more info.

### Get Your Dog a Buddy

Consider getting your dog a canine companion. Dogs of all sizes and breeds are available for adoption at local rescues and shelters. You will feel good about saving the life of a dog and gaining a friend.

### Provide Plenty of Exercise

Dogs get tired of sitting in the same spot day after day. Dogs need to run, sniff, and explore. Taking your dog on a walk is good exercise for you and your dog. If your dog is strong, get him fitted for a harness or prong collar at a pet store. Be sure the collar is not too tight. You should be able to fit at least two fingers between the dog's neck and collar.

### Take your Dog to Training

Pet stores offer inexpensive training classes that will make the transition to living indoors easier. You will learn to communicate with your dog and your dog will learn how to be a well-behaved family member.

### Provide Toys

Just like kids, dogs need the stimulation provided by toys. Even a knotted towel or tennis ball can provide hours of fun. Dogs also enjoy rawhides and chew toys, available at grocery stores.

## Know the Law

In addition to the prohibition on fixed-point chaining, there are new standards of care required by law:

### Provide Proper Shelter

Dogs kept outside must have a structurally sound, water-proof, wind-proof shelter large enough to keep the dog clean and dry. Doghouses must protect the dog from temperature extremes and provide ventilation and drainage. Doghouses and the surrounding area must be clean and must minimize the chance of the dog getting injured or contracting diseases or parasites.

### Provide Fresh Food and Water

Dogs must have enough wholesome food to keep them healthy. Dogs must have clean, fresh water in a container that won't tip over. Place a water bucket inside a tire or a hole in the ground to keep it from tipping. Buckets may be secured to a fence or doghouse with a bungee cord.

### Travel Safely

Dogs in an open-bed vehicle must be in a ventilated carrier that provides the dog room to stand and turn around. Dogs too large for carriers must be restrained with tethers in the center of the vehicle bed (you can purchase a kit at pet stores). It is unlawful for dogs to be confined in a vehicle under unhealthy conditions, such as extreme heat.

### Minimum Pen Size

If you can't build a fence, don't put your dog in a tiny pen. At the very least, the pen should meet the minimum standard below. (Increase pen size by half of the total area per additional dog.)

Small	Medium	Large	X-Large
Under 20 lbs	20-50 lbs	50-75 lbs	Over 75 lbs.
24 Sq. Ft.	32 Sq. Ft.	40 Sq. Ft.	48 Sq. Ft.