

Anti-Chaining Legislation Presentation

(Powerpoint - pics of chained dogs)

Jan

Imagine yourself standing in the middle of an 8 foot diameter circle (pause) and spending the rest of your life there.

Imagine waking up every morning knowing that you will spend almost every minute of that day alone.

Imagine not being able to walk more than a few feet in any direction, dragging a chain along with you every time you move.

You long to run but you can only pace.

Imagine looking longingly through the window of your family's home, watching as they go about their lives without you, hoping that today you might be brought inside to be with them.

Imagine the mind-numbing boredom of doing nothing but sitting in the same spot all day, every day, never knowing the sheer joy of running free or chasing a ball, of playing with other dogs, or lying on a soft bed at your owner's feet.

This is what life is like day after day, year after year for thousands of resident dogs throughout the lower mainland.

Unlike family pets, resident dogs are not welcome inside their home as members of their family.

They live alone in the yard, in a pen, on a chain, or inside a shed or garage.

Resident dogs may also be cruelly confined inside the home, living continuously in basements, attics, closets, and crates.

Resident dogs have addresses, not homes

Chained and penned dogs must eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a single confined area.

They invariably have overturned water bowls, inadequate vet care and are rarely kept clean and groomed.

They swelter and suffer from heat stroke in the summer, freeze and die from hypothermia in the winter.

Fleas, parasites and ear infections are common afflictions. (slower)

The intense boredom they live with daily often causes them to lick or chew themselves obsessively, causing open sores and infections (pics of neck wounds)

The necks of chained dogs often become raw and infected from constant rubbing or from collars that must be kept uncomfortably tight to prevent the dog from backing out of them.

(Pics of tangled dogs) (faster)

Tethers can become entangled around other objects further restricting their movement.

In 2008, a Saint Bernard who became hopelessly entangled in the cord she was tethered with tried to chew off her own leg in an attempt to free herself.

Many chained dogs have hung themselves when they have attempted to jump over their own doghouses and fences, such as this dog did. (pic of hanging black dog).

And this one. (picture of hanging gold dog).

This was Amber. Her owners admitted she had never once been off her chain in all the years they owned her.

Amber's horrific death was her only escape from years of isolation and boredom. (Pic of dead dog)

This dog in Surrey strangled to death after struggling for hours to free himself from his tangled tether, his cries and whines for help ignored by his family.

(Judas video)

But all the ways that chained and cruelly confined dogs physically suffer pale in comparison to the emotional torment they endure by being isolated and consistently alone.

This is Judith, a dog who spent almost her entire life on the end of a heavy chain in Burnaby. Despite being reported repeatedly to the SPCA, Judith remained on her chain for ten torturous years.

At that time Burnaby did not have an anti-chaining law as they do now.

So Judith remained on her chain, her life filled with misery, boredom, loneliness, pain and terrible neglect.

Humans have specifically bred dogs for thousands of generations to want to be our constant companions more than they want anything else.

A 1994 study of puppy behaviour showed that dogs long to be with humans almost from the moment they open their eyes.

Four month old puppies given a choice between going to a human or going to another dog consistently preferred the human.

If you could ask a dog if they would rather have a warm dog house with a soft bed and sufficient food and water but be always alone or if they could be with their family even if

that meant sleeping on the ground and sometimes being thirsty and hungry, they would pick the latter every time.

But dogs can't make these decisions for themselves.

They are totally dependent on us and our humanity, or lack thereof.

(End of chained Judas video)

(Pics of dejected dogs on chains)

There is hardly a single animal welfare organization that hasn't spoken out to declare that long term chaining or penning of dogs is inhumane and that isolating a dog from their family is one of the cruelest things we can do to them.

Resident dogs suffer from intense boredom, loneliness, frustration, anxiety, depression and insanity.

Eventually they lose all hope and their defeated souls are clearly evident.

And yet, this cruelty is entirely supported by current federal, provincial and most municipal laws.

As long as this is legal how can we ever consider ourselves a humane people.

Marlene

(Begin scrolling list of bites)

I will be discussing how the implementation of an anti-tethering by-law will not only make Richmond a more humane community but a safer one as well.

Scrolling on the screen in front of you is a partial list of attacks on humans by chained or penned dogs over the past few years in the US and Canada.

Dogs, like humans, are fight or flight animals.

When faced with a threat, dog psychology dictates that it escape or confront.

Because tethered dogs have no opportunity to flee from perceived danger, their only option is to attack.

Research from the Center of Disease Control in the US has shown that consistently chained dogs are three times more likely to bite than unchained dogs.

And the more frequently and longer the period of time a dog is chained, the more likely they are to attack.

Young children are especially at risk as they are unaware of the potential danger and are more vulnerable to severe injury and death.

Research about fatal dog attacks in the States determined that children make up 88% of the

victims of fatal attacks by chained and penned dogs.

Dogs are chained for any number of reasons, but one of the most common is to act as guard dogs.

But chained dogs are poor protectors of their families.

By isolating dogs and depriving them of their greatest emotional need, we create unsocialized and emotionally detached timebombs.

Such dogs become aggressive – not protective.

As they are not used to being with people, they may not know the difference between friends and enemies and may attack anyone, including their own family members.

One particularly horrifying case illustrates how fast tragedy can strike.

In 2005, a 4 yr old boy named Robbie of Orange County, Virginia was mauled to death by his family's mixed breed dog who was chained inside his pen.

It took less than a minute for Robbie to walk into the pen and for the dog to fatally break his neck.

As Ingrid Newkirk of PETA states, "if you want to protect your family, chain your door, not your dog".

(start of Alex video)

This is a video of a chained dog named Alex.

He is being approached by a man who is trying to gently loop a leash over his head.

Despite the non-aggressive manner in which the man approaches him, it is clear Alex feels threatened. Without the option of fleeing, chained dogs like Alex often perceive any approach as threatening, resulting in an aggressive response.

No one would doubt that Alex would bite this man if he had the chance.

But you will be surprised to see that Alex is not an aggressive dog at all.

Once he is removed from the chain, Alex almost immediately transforms into the naturally gentle and affectionate dog he is.

This is a very typical response from dogs once they are removed from their chains.

Dogs are naturally gentle and affectionate creatures.

More often than not, the chain is the source of the aggression, not the dog. (end Alex video)

(list of cities that ban or restrict chaining)

Anti-tethering laws have been enacted by several states and in hundreds of communities



throughout the US and Canada, including the cities of Calgary, Burnaby, Delta, Lions Bay, New West, Victoria and soon in Surrey.

(Before and After pics)

Experience has shown that these laws create safer communities, encourage responsible and humane pet ownership and end the suffering of thousands of tethered dogs, including the ones you see here.

These laws vary from a total tethering ban, to banning the chaining of unattended dogs to allowing short term chaining for toiletry needs to multi-hour chaining limits.

Feedback from many of these communities is included in your package.

But to summarize, many communities that legislated multi-hour chaining limits found the law difficult to enforce as officers needed to determine how long a dog had been on the chain.

Multi-hour chaining limits also didn't reduce the number of neglect calls, required more officer hours and did not reduce the number of dog bites.

In contrast, communities that enacted total or unattended bans found the law highly enforceable, required less officer hours, and was very effective at reducing the incidence of dog bites.

Many U.S. communities that initially enacted multi-hour chaining limits eventually enacted a total or unattended ban.

The legislation we are recommending is the easiest to enact and enforce.

It includes a ban on unattended chaining and on long term crating and penning of dogs.

It requires that a responsible person must be outside with a chained dog and have them in visual range.

(pics of pitbull fighting victims, then pics of puppy mill dogs)

This law has the additional benefit of providing officers with tools to end dog fighting rings, whose dogs are consistently chained, and puppy mills, whose dogs typically spend their lives in crates and small pens.

(start of Happy Judas Video)

The power to improve the lives of chained dogs like Judith is in your hands.

Thanks to the anti-chaining law in Burnaby, Judith was finally liberated and spent the last year of her life as a much loved and cherished member of her new family.

If Judith had lived in a community that still had no anti-chaining law, she would have died on her chain, alone and in misery.

Anti-chaining and anti-cruel confinement legislation will help your animal control officers educate the members of your community who may not understand the psychological and physical suffering inflicted on chained and penned dogs and will empower them to end the suffering of dogs of non-compliant owners.

Please help chained and isolated dogs currently suffering in your community by making the humane decision to ban unattended chaining and the cruel confinement of dogs and help ensure Richmond becomes a safer and more humane community.