

## Make a Positive Change

After reading this brochure, we hope you have learned more about the physical and emotional needs of dogs and the responsibility that comes with bringing a dog into your life.

Dogs enrich our lives in many ways and we owe it to them to be as aware of their needs as possible. By doing so, we can fully experience the joy and wonder of these beautiful and loyal animals. Not only will your dog's life be enhanced, but you and your family will benefit as well.

Animals are not toys to be picked up and put down at will. They are living, breathing creatures who need your constant interaction and care to be happy, healthy, and sane.

**We believe all animals deserve to be treated with compassion and care!**

*For more information about helping chained and penned dogs, please see [www.DogsDeserveBetter.com](http://www.DogsDeserveBetter.com).*

*If you are interested in helping local chained and penned dogs, please contact us!*

[East TN Spay & Neuter](http://EastTNSpay&Neuter.com)  
[423-289-5548](tel:423-289-5548)  
[etspay-neuter@hotmail.com](mailto:etspay-neuter@hotmail.com)  
[www.etnspay-neuter.org](http://www.etnspay-neuter.org)  
[pinterest.com/easttennesseesp](https://pinterest.com/easttennesseesp)

## You Have Your Family, Friends, and Hobbies...



**All I Have...  
...Is You**

We all love our animals. But sometimes, without realizing it, we are not giving them the care they need to be happy and healthy. The most common situation is dogs left chained or penned outside day and night.

Can you imagine going through an entire day, confined in one place, with nobody to keep you company? The seconds would surely tick by slowly. For countless dogs, this is not just one day, but a lifetime spent alone, at the end of a chain or in a pen.

### **Doesn't my dog like being outside?**

While most dogs enjoy being outside to play or go for walks, being chained or penned all day is not in the best interest of your dog.

Dogs are social animals, naturally living in packs. In a domesticated setting, their human family replaces the pack. Being constantly separated from their "pack" causes them to become timid, anxious, neurotic, or hyperactive. In fact, dogs chained or penned for years are known to grind their teeth down until their gums bleed. Chained or penned dogs with no mental stimulation or

companionship will bark incessantly as a desperate cry for attention.

The lack of interaction and the vulnerability of being restrained can create vicious dogs—overly territorial and aggressive. Adults, children, or other animals who wander into their area may be attacked. If the dog gets loose, they are more prone to bite someone. Nearly 1/3 of fatal dog bites recorded in the U.S. are known to have been inflicted by chained or penned dogs.

So, do you think being chained or penned is the best possible life for your dog?

### **What if I take good care of my dog?**

When dogs are kept chained or penned outside all day the problems they experience often go unseen. Medical problems may go unnoticed. Chains can tangle, leaving a dog trapped. Chains also knock over water bowls, leaving your dog with nothing to drink. These problems may go on for a long time. Daily feeding and watering become easier to forget as the dog is “out of sight, out of mind.”

Proper grooming also often gets forgotten when dogs are kept away from daily family activity. A dog’s coat is essential to its ability to keep itself warm in cold weather and cool in summer. Long- and coarse-haired breeds, such as collies, spaniels, and many terriers need a regular regimen of grooming to keep their coats free from matts and dirt, and contribute to their overall health.

Dogs restrained in one place often lack shelter from the elements. Many dogs have died from lack of water or shade on hot days, or a warm shelter on cold days. Remember, some types of dog houses, such as the plastic igloo types, can become stifling hot if they are exposed to full sun, and provide little warmth if they are not properly insulated or protected from wind and driving rain.

Do you think that your dog’s physical and emotional needs are met?

### **Isn’t the backyard a safe place for my dog?**

Many dogs who are chained injure themselves or develop sores on their necks. Some have actually hung to death when trying to jump over a fence or other structure.

If another animal enters the area, a chained or penned dog will have no means of escape. These dogs may be victims of cruel teasing and attacks, and have rocks, sticks, or other objects thrown at them. People who steal animals for experiments in laboratories see a chained or penned dog as an easy target. They are also stolen for dog-fighting rings.

How would you feel if your dog ended up in a laboratory or dog-fight arena?

### **I clean up after my dog, isn’t that enough?**

The small area in which chained or penned dogs live every minute of their lives often become far from pleasant. Where there once was grass, the constant presence and movement of the dog beats the ground into a circle of dirt or mud. Worse yet, some pens are constructed on a concrete pad, which is unrelentingly hard to lie on, and gets hot in summer, and cold in winter. And even if animal waste is regularly removed, the smell will remain in the area.

Dogs are naturally den animals. In the wild, they would find a suitable shelter, and defecate and urinate away from that shelter. When chained or penned, they do not have that choice. Eating, sleeping, defecating, and urinating in the same confined area is unhealthy for any creature. The smell of feces also draws flies and other insects that torment the dog. After many years of being chained or penned, many dogs lose portions of their ears to fly bites. The unhealthy conditions also lead to internal parasites, which are difficult to control because the dog is in constant contact with his or her own fecal matter.

Could you imagine having to eat, drink and sleep in a portable toilet?

### **I have to keep my dog outside because...**

Perhaps your dog was put outside because of behavioral problems or not being housebroken. This can be corrected with patience, perseverance, and a little hard work. We can provide a list of trainers and behaviorists as well as house training tips. If your dog is outside because nobody is home to go on walks, consider asking a trusted neighbor or friend to help.

If there are times you must have your dog outside, fencing the yard will allow greater movement and freedom. If fencing is not available, an overhead cable pulley system, available at most supply stores, will allow your dog more movement than chaining. NOTE: it is recommended that a harness be used, rather than a collar, for your dog’s safety and comfort. If your dog is to be kept outside for any length of time, proper food, water, and shelter must be provided.

If you decide that you cannot or do not want to provide the best living situation for your dog, consider adopting him or her into a more suitable home. Please contact your shelter or ETSN 423-437-3850.

*Dogs left to linger on chains or in pens suffer every minute of every day. Constant confinement destroys both body and mind, slowly driving social, playful animals to desperation. **We believe this is cruel!** Please take the steps necessary to prevent this from happening so that your friend can enjoy life to the fullest.*

Help us make  
a better life  
for pets and people  
in our community!

