

Post Office Box 11364
1067 N.E. Columbia Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97211



Phone: 503.285.7722
Fax: 503.285.0838
www.oregonhumane.org

Date: March 14, 2013

To: **Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**
Brad Witt, Chair
Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair
Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair

From: Sharon Harmon
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society

Re: House Bill 2783

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **We are here today to ask for your support of HB 2783.**

Dogs are social animals that evolved living in packs. Now that dogs are domesticated, humans are their pack and, many times, their preferred companions.

They are social beings that crave attention and companionship who desperately want to be part of the family and deserve to be treated as such. As curious, social creatures, dogs crave attention and interaction. Many people who have shared their lives with dogs know what loyal companions and fun characters they can be. The loyalty of dogs to their guardians is unparalleled.

Dogs isolated on chains live lonely, bored and anxious lives often accompanied by suffering and neglect and are deprived of expressing natural behaviors. Chained dogs are often left to brave the elements on their own. These dogs are stuck outside on the end of their chains during the chill of winter and heat of summer, unable to find relief from the weather. Often this area becomes filthy as they are forced to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in the same small area against their natural instincts.

Chained dogs are also more likely to fall victim to abusive people or other wild or stray animals that may invade their environment. There are few easier targets than a dog restricted to a length of chain or cable with no way to escape his tormentors. Continuously chained dogs are often deprived of adequate exercise, stimulation, and social contact in their limited environments. Many chained dogs are left by themselves day and night, "out of sight and out of mind" of their guardians. They become lonely, frustrated, and listless.

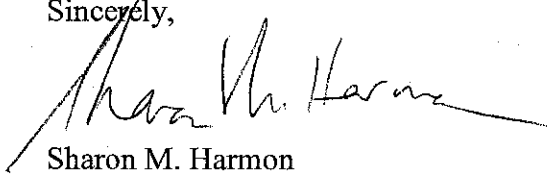


This issue isn't just about humane treatment; it's also about human safety. Some dogs may become excessively and irrationally protective of the area to which their movement is restricted, increasing risk to humans that interact with them. Such frustration and lack of socialization can have disastrous results: a frequent element in fatal dog attacks on humans involves dogs where people have gotten too close to frustrated and now vicious chained dogs. The most recent case of a chained dog killing a child occurred on 3/9/13 in Jacksonville FL.

Man's best friend deserves a better life than a lonely existence at the end of the end of chain forced to live within sight and scent of his own waste, wanting nothing more than to part of a family.

Please vote yes HB 2783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon M. Harmon", written over a diagonal line that extends from the top left towards the center.

Sharon M. Harmon
Executive Director
Oregon Humane Society
503 416-2992
Sharon@oregonhumane.org

Jacksonville 17-month-old killed by neighbor's Rottweiler

Posted: March 9, 2012 - 2:10pm | Updated: March 11, 2012 - 2:23pm

View this story on the All-Access Members site



By Jim Schoettler

A 17-month-old Jacksonville boy died Friday after being attacked by a chained Rottweiler when the toddler broke from his mother and went into a neighbor's yard, police said.

The attack that killed Dylan Andres occurred just before noon in the 1000 block of Maynard Street off Norwood Avenue, said Chief of Detectives Tom Hackney. A neighbor who witnessed part of the attack said the boy was bitten in the neck. He was pronounced dead at Shands Jacksonville hospital.

See more images from the scene

Hackney said the boy's mother, Destiny Kieszler, had returned with him from a store and was unloading groceries in front of their home when her son got away. Hackney said the toddler wandered across the street and was attacked by the dog, which was chained to a pole in the front yard.

Hackney said the Rottweiler bit the child repeatedly.

Neighbor Jessica Golden said she accompanied Kieszler and the boy to and from the store and was in her house when she heard the mother's screams. Golden ran outside and saw Dylan's father trying to pull him away from the dog.

"The dog had the baby in its mouth," said Golden, trembling and holding an unlit cigarette. "The baby was full of blood. It was just a tragedy."

Hackney said the Rottweiler will be euthanized. He said police have had no reports of trouble with the animal, though Golden said it chased her once. The owner of the Rottweiler was not home at the time of the attack, Hackney said.

Neighbor Joseph Ellard said he heard a bunch of screaming and dogs barking. He said he left his house, grabbed a stick and ran to the scene to find the boy's mother holding him. He was covered in dirt and blood.

Ellard said his girlfriend took the child and mother to the hospital.

His sister, Gina Ellard, said she also heard the mother screaming, "The dog's got the baby! The dog's got the baby!"

Dylan's mother wept as she returned to her home, declining to comment. The boy's father was heartbroken, a relative said.

Aunts Tamika Clark and Keisha Jones stood weeping near the scene.

"He brought us a lot of joy," Clark said. "He had the brightest smile that lit up a room."

Jones said she last saw Dylan Thursday.

"He was an energetic little boy. He was adventurous," she said.

The sadness of the loss could be heard in a conversation Jones had with her two young children, one in her arms and the other standing nearby. When asked about their cousin's fate, Jones said softly, "Dylan's not with us anymore. He's with God."

The last dog-attack death in Jacksonville involved a days-old baby and the family's pit bull at their Dickson Road home Oct. 24, 2010.

In October 2004 at a Jade Drive home, a 5-week-old Jacksonville boy was killed by a pet mutt that jumped on a bed while his grandmother left the room for a minute.

jim.schoettler@jacksonville.com, (904) 359-4385

Share | 1 | Email | Print

Subscribe to The Florida Times-Union

[Back to Top](#)