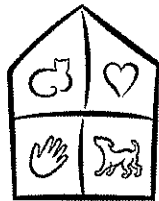


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OREGON
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Phone: 503.285.7722
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Date: April 4, 2013
To: House Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Witt, Chair
Re: HB 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, including the Humane Society of the United States.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2873

A number of questions were raised during the prior hearing on this bill, I will attempt to address the issues relevant to our work as Humane Special Agents for the state of Oregon.

Time interval is too short:

Prior testimony indicated Clackamas County citizens tether their dogs because they work in distant communities and could not comply with the proposed generous time limits. HB 2783 grants 15 hours of continuous tethering, more than enough to commute, attend after school events and return to home.

Injuries are rare if not nonexistent:

This is simply not true. Dogs on tethers become tangled and serious injuries can result such as limb loss, paralysis and death. Dogs who are confined on a tether are often forgotten, unloved, and neglected. While their circumstances may meet current standards for minimum care; the lack of daily touch, regular grooming, and social isolation means injuries like embedded collars, wounds, and illness go undetected. See packet for photos of an embedded collar and a dog that had to have an embedded shock collar surgically removed. Warning, these photographs may be disturbing.

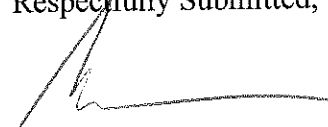
Owners need guard dogs to protect machinery from metal thieves:

The best protection is for the dog to have complete access to all the equipment i.e. a fenced area, not chained to a single object. 24 hour confinement on the end of a chain leads to frustration and ultimately aggression. Chaining dogs can result in behaviors far beyond protection – a frequent scenario where dogs kill people involve dogs on chains. Children are especially vulnerable to

serious or fatal injuries from aggressive dogs that are chained. These incidents are surprisingly frequent, often tragic and ultimately preventable. (see attached incident from **2/17/13**).

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2783.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Harmon
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society
sharon@oregonhumane.org
(503) 285-7722

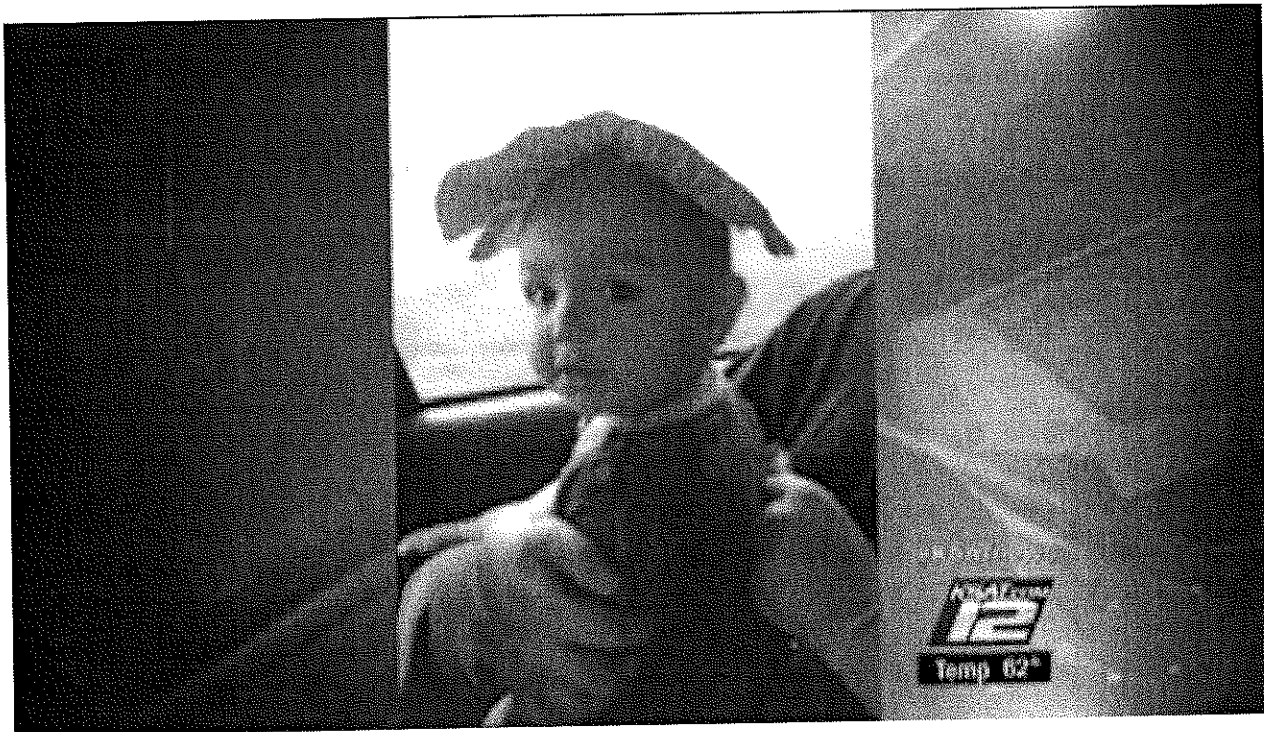


Toddler dies after pit bull attack south of San Antonio

Uvalde County toddler Isaiah Aguilar killed by pit bull outside home in Sabinal

Author: **Cory Smith**, Reporter, csmith@ksat.com

Published On: Feb 17 2013 11:55:53 PM CST Updated On: Feb 18 2013 03:50:17 PM CST



SABINAL, Texas -

A 2-year-old Uvalde County boy was killed Saturday after he was attacked by a pit bull dog.

Police said Isaiah Aguilar was playing with a balloon outside his home when the wind blew it into the back yard next door.

The toddler went to retrieve the balloon and was attacked by a female pit bull that was tied up in the yard.

"He had bites all on his arms, puncture wounds to his stomach, and bites on his neck," said the boy's father, Richard Aguilar. "There was a lot of blood."

Aguilar said his daughter told him someone inside the home opened the door to the back yard during the attack,

but did not help the boy.

“My daughter [saw] somebody open the door and look out, and said he just shook his head, and shut the door.”

Aguilar was nearly attacked by the dog before he grabbed his son and called for help. He said the boy was not breathing.

A neighbor in the area performed CPR as they waited for police to arrive.

Police officers transported Aguilar and his son to a hospital in nearby Uvalde, Texas, but the boy died from his injuries.

“No matter what we do we’re not going to get him back,” said Isaiah’s mother Lisa Gonzales.

Sabinal police said this has never happened in the small town of about 1,500 people.

The pit bull is being held in quarantine in Uvalde until tests can be performed on the boy’s body.

Officers said a judge will likely decide what happens to the dog and whether the owner will be punished.

Lisa Gonzales said she’s heartbroken that nobody came to help her son. “I just want all this to be a nightmare,” she said.

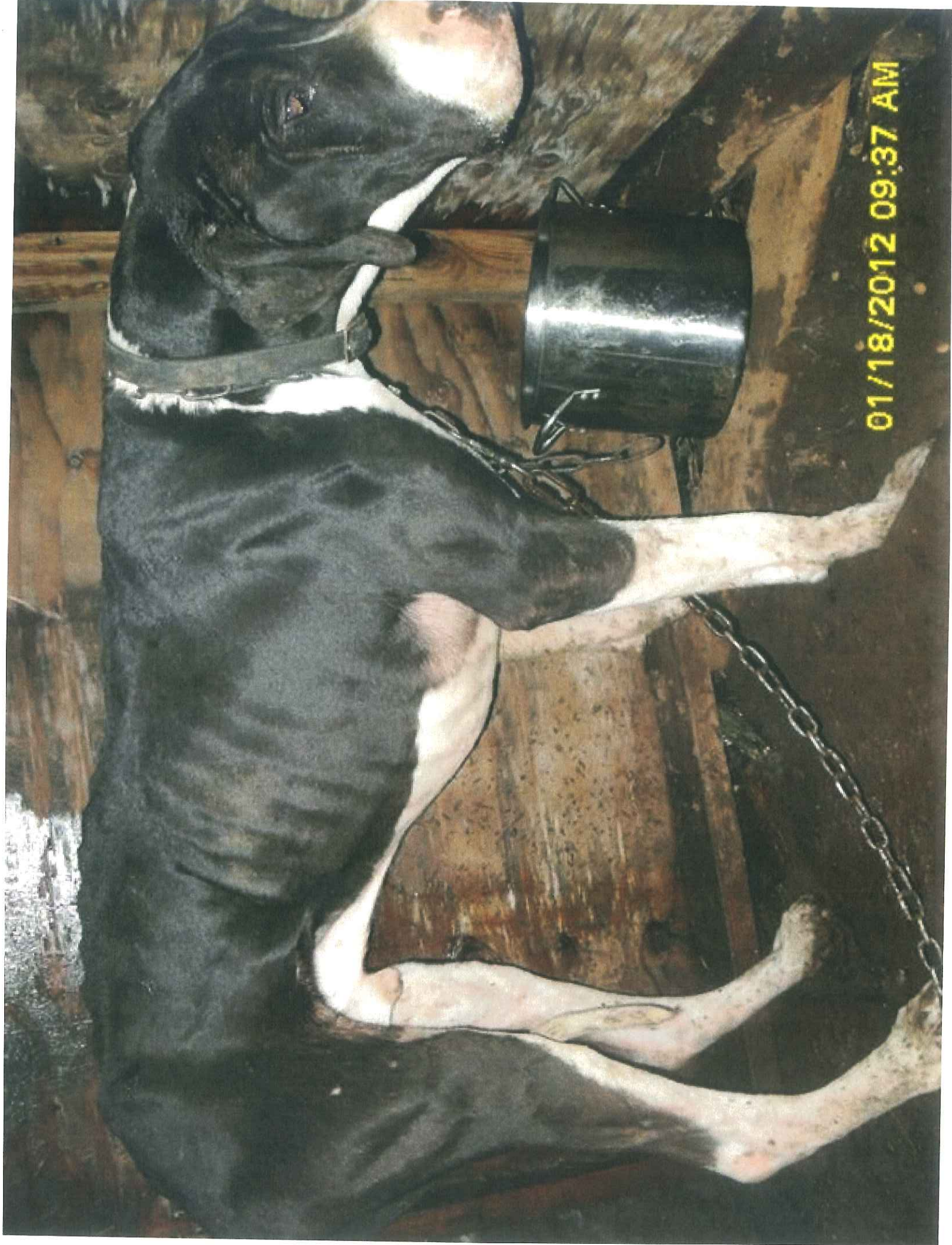
For a list of recent stories by Cory Smith, click here.

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