

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



Phone: 503.285.7722
Fax: 503.285.0838
www.oregonhumane.org

*From the
Office of Representative
Bombers
Paul Jones*

April 10, 2013

To Members of the House of Representatives:

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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