

# Questions and Answers about Chained Dogs

## 1. What is meant by dog chaining or dog tethering?

*Chaining* or *tethering* refers to the practice of keeping a dog continually tied to a stationary object.

## 2. What problems are associated with dog tethering?

### **Chaining is inhumane and unsafe for dogs.**

Dogs are, by nature, social beings who thrive on interaction with people and other animals. A dog kept chained in one spot for months or years suffers immense psychological damage. A continuously chained dog usually becomes neurotic, anxious, and aggressive.

In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and infected from too-tight collars. Dog tethers can easily become entangled with other objects, choking or strangling the dogs. Chained dogs cannot escape threats such as floods, storms, or attacking animals.

### **Chaining is a safety hazard for people.**

Dogs naturally feel protective of their territory. When confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their *fight-or-flight* instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight. A study by the Centers for Disease Control found that chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite. The dogs most likely to bite are male, unneutered and chained. Tragically, the victims of chained dog attacks are usually children.

Dogs shouldn't be allowed to run loose either. Dogs should be socialized and kept inside the home or in fenced yards.

## 3. Are tethered dogs otherwise treated well?

Unfortunately, tethered dogs rarely receive sufficient care. They suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, lack of exercise, and extreme temperatures. They must eat, sleep, urinate, and defecate in a single confined area. Grass is usually beaten into hard-packed dirt by the dog's continual pacing. Chained dogs are rarely given minimal affection and are easily ignored by their owners.

## 4. Should chaining ever be allowed?

To become well-adjusted companion animals, dogs should interact with people daily and receive regular exercise. Placing an animal on a restraint for short periods for exercise or fresh air is acceptable. Animals kept temporarily tethered should be safely secured so the tether can't become entangled with other objects. Collars should be properly fitted.

Using a pulley or trolley run is preferable to fixed-point chaining. However, dogs still get choked and tangled on trolleys. The best way to confine dogs is to bring them inside or provide them with a fenced area.

## 5. Who says chaining is inhumane?

The **United States Department of Agriculture** has stated, "Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury."



In 1997, the USDA ruled that people and organizations regulated by the Animal Welfare Act cannot keep dogs continuously chained.



The **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)** has also come out publicly against dog tethering. In a press release for Dog Bite Prevention Week, the AVMA stated, "Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior."

### **6. Don't chained dogs make good guard dogs?**

No, the opposite is true. Chained dogs are unable to stop intruders. All they can do is bark. Since most chained dogs are unsocialized, they are unable to distinguish a real threat from a family friend or neighborhood child.

The best guard dogs are those who live inside the home and are treated as part of the family, which is how K9 police dogs are raised.

### **7. Why should we pass a law to ban the continuous chaining of dogs?**

Local animal control advocates receive hundreds calls every year from citizens concerned about chained and neglected animals. Because chaining is legal, there is little officers can do to help the dog. By the time it becomes a clear-cut case of animal cruelty under current legal standards, it is often too late to save the dog.

Prohibiting chaining makes a community safer by reducing the number of dog attacks and dog bites. Also, a chaining law gives officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since most fighting dogs are kept chained.

### **8. Are there laws regulating dog chaining in other states or communities?**

Yes, 19 states and over 140 U.S. cities and counties have laws banning or carefully regulating chaining. Visit [unchainyourdog.org/laws](http://unchainyourdog.org/laws) to read more.

### **9. Would passage of a chaining law cost lots of money?**

No. Animal control officers are already spending time and resources responding to reports of chained, neglected, and abused dogs. A ban would allow animal control officers to fine individuals who are constantly tethering their dogs. This would be a source of additional revenue.

### **10. Who would be impacted by a law to ban dog tethering?**

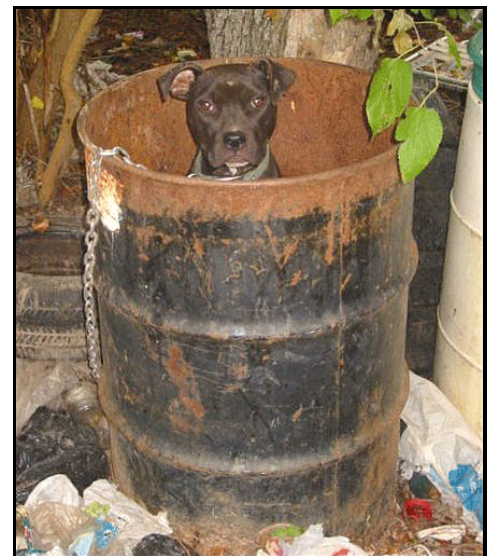
This bill would not apply to situations where a dog is temporarily tied on public property, such as outside a store or restaurant. It would also not apply to situations where dogs are temporarily tethered per government regulation, such as at state parks or camping areas. People who keep their dogs continually chained would be affected by this law.

### **11. What about people who can't afford a fence?**

You don't have to have a fence to have a dog! Apartment-dwellers don't have private yards; their dogs can be perfectly happy living inside the home with the family and going on regular walks. There are many resources available to help people train their dogs to be well-behaved members of the family.

### **12. Where can I learn more?**

Visit [unchainyourdog.org](http://unchainyourdog.org) or [dogsdeservebetter.org](http://dogsdeservebetter.org) for articles, statistics, photos, ordinance language, and other information about chaining.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1298 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** keauea@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1298 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM

**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this legislation.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** AGRtestimony  
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**HB1298**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Ziegler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1298.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
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**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I continue to try, each year, to get legislation passed against the tethering and chaining of dogs. It is a cruel and inhumane way to keep a dog. I personally have 2 rescue dogs that came from horrific situations and am a firm believer that all animals should be treated with dignity and love. I am totally in favor of passing HB 1298. Those of us (thousands) feel the same way. WE are the voice for these dogs since they cannot speak for themselves. I respectfully request that YOU become their voice in this Bill. Mahalo nui loa.

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comments: Thank you for consideration.  
Based on successful Mass. Legislation.  
For Ag. Committee Members

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# ATTENTION

## Tethering / Chaining of Dogs Not Allowed in Randolph County



The Randolph County Animal Control Ordinance has changed. Tethering or chaining of dogs is no longer allowed in Randolph County.

Residents have until January 1, 2017 to find another way of keeping dogs on their property.

Dog owners can:

- tether a dog for a reasonable period of time to allow for bathroom breaks.
- tether a dog on a runic for a reasonable period of time that allows the dog to exercise.

On January 1, 2017, residents who tether or chain their dogs will receive a warning citation. If the dog remains tethered, there will be a \$50 fine.

If you need help finding other options for keeping your dog on your property, please contact the animal shelter at 336-683-8245 or the following dog rescues:

- RC Humane Society
- Happy Hills Animal Foundation
- Flying Hoards Fences

For a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance visit  
[www.co.randolph.nc.us/pl/animal-control.htm](http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/pl/animal-control.htm)



This is HEARTBREAKING to hear how HAWAII TREATS CANINE FAMILY COMPANIONS' WHO HAVE BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN TO HAVE EMOTIONS & FEELINGS!!!!!! THIS IS UTTER ABUSE IT'S TOURCHER!!! CLEARLY THE PICTURE OF THIS POOR INNOCENT STARVED NEGLECTED PUP PHOTOGRAPHED ON THIS ATROCIOUS CHAIN IS EMACIATED, HAS NO RESPECT AS A LIVING SOULI ISOLATED FROM THE LOVE & CARE IT SO DESPERATLY NEEDS & DESERVES!!! THIS IS EXTREMELY DISTURBING!!! I HAD NO IDEA HAWAII WAS NOT A CULTURED SOCIETY NOR DID I KNOW THIS TREATMENT OF INNOCENT LIFE IS PRACTICED! I PLEED ON BEHALF OF THESE INELEGANT LOVING LOYAL CANINES WHO HAVE NO VOICE' WHO ARE MAN'S BEST FRIEND, WHO VISIT CHILDREN'S CANCER WARDS TO BRING A SMILE & HOPE TO A CHILD WHO MAY BE DYING' AS WELL AS ASSIST IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & POLICE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY HERE IN AMERICA AS WELL AS SERVICES OF MILITARY' SNIFFING OUT BOMBS, AIDING IN MAJOR DRUG BUSTS, AID FOR THE BLIND' HELP IN LOCATING MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN ADD WELL AS CRIMINALS, THEY ARE MOVIE & TV CELEBRITIES JUST TO NAME A FEW! THEY ARE OUR AMERICAN HERO'S! HAWAII EDUCATE THEMSELVES TO STEP UP WITH THE TIMES OF NO TOLERANCE OVER IGNORANCE ,  
Jackie M. - Florida.

Planning to go to Hawaii, not now. I won't go for a vacation to a state that thinks it's OK to treat animals like this.  
Diane I. - California

Read the petition first - this is not my culture!! Please sign and share! Tania L. - Hawaii

Cruelty must be banned. There is no arguing visible suffering in man or animal. It must be stopped, write the laws that demand change. Julie H. - New York

Everyday I see this as I drive in my neighborhood It breaks my heart. It is like chaining a toddler. Do the right thing-Stop this horrible abuse. Educate, legislate, and enforce. Sandra I-Hawaii

Dogs on chains/teether/runners Its all wrong!! Janice M. -Hawaii

I live in Hawaii and I'm ashamed to say the Aloha spirit and caring mentality does not always extend to the 4 legged and helpless. Kerry K. -Hawaii

This is mans best friend and they deserve better!! This antiquated way of keeping animals is an atrocity to a beautiful island! Dominique M.- New Jersey

There are also comments such as "No more visits to HAWAII for my household".

Chains can be very heavy and easily get embedded in the neck causing infection. Dogs are social creatures that thrive on interaction with people and other dogs. Some dogs live their entire life on a chain with very little room to move. Chaining can be a sign of dog fighting, a very cruel crime. Why is chaining a dog harmful to people: Chained dogs are usually unsocialized, territorial, and prone to aggression. "Fight or flight" instinct kicks in when threatened. Since can't flee - forced to fight. Attacks often occur when a child enters territory. Chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite. When an unsocialized dog breaks loose and roams, he is a danger to people. Chained dogs are rarely vaccinated, presenting disease threat. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): "Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior." United States Department Agriculture (USDA): "Continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane." In 1997, USDA disallowed chaining as primary source of confinement under the U.S. Animal Welfare Act

Currently Hawaii law allows for use of 3 foot logging chains to permanently tie out dogs to tires, trees, other stationary objects. This causes decline of our communities as well as puts people at risk. It is also Animal Abuse and it is widespread on the islands. In 1997 the USDA ruled that people regulated by the Animal Welfare Act cannot keep dogs continuously chained. Surely they meant Hawaii. The American Veterinary medical Association has also spoken out against chaining on Bite Prevention Week. Fighting dogs are all kept chained.

At least 24 states and 45 counties and counting have adopted tethering provisions already for the safety of their communities. From a Public Health and community Safety standpoint, these officials are right on. We already lost a child in Kauai who was mauled to death by a chained dog, which should have raised the alarm ([stopbigislanddogabuse.com](http://stopbigislanddogabuse.com)) We have the highest meth use per capita in the country, highest kill rates in the shelters, and we absolutely need to adopt the USDA ruling on the Animal Welfare Act, Especially on the Outer Islands, visitors often comment on the disgraceful way people keep their animals. An estimated 100,000 dogs on Hawaii island alone are currently kept on heavy chains, with some residents having 7-8 dogs chained up to trees or trucks in their yard or just out in jungle. It is considered "culture" here to starve and chain dogs to hunt wild boars. Dog-Boar fights have become rage, where dogs are pitted against a particularly nasty boar. There are bumper stickers demanding we "respect the culture". However these "traditions and cultures" have been outlawed worldwide to make it a safer more humane place for all including our keiki (children). Hawaii is a very rural place often called the 4th world, and also has one of the most visited tourist attractions on earth, Volcano National Park, thus the visitors comments.

This is a community safety issue, resulting in decline of our communities, property values, dog fighting which we find the horrific casualties of, along with other forms of rampant unspeakable abuse which is a precursor to violence towards humans domestic or otherwise, and of course poses a HEALTH RISK TO Society. We want to pull our community up to higher standards from where we are now with widespread animal abuse. In the last decade Hawaii has also seen the sharp rise of the worlds worst invasive species, IFA (fire ants) whose bites cause animal blindness. Thousands of dogs in Hawaii are blind with the situation getting worse. Chained dogs cannot get away from the ants on their food and excrement area which is usually one and the same.

Dogs are Man's best Friend and Dogs Deserve Better. There is No Aloha in Chaining Dogs, [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org) lists tethering restrictions and animal abuse state by state. [www.unchainyourdog.org](http://www.unchainyourdog.org) shows the blights and ills of chaining up dogs in a community. Hawaii needs to implement some Anti-tethering Standards regarding Dogs and we need to do it in 2017 legislature. There is a well-recognized connection now between animal brutality and criminal behavior in general. "We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves" So far attempts at introducing legislation have met with backlash.

Please Support and Vote Yes on "MollyB Bill" HB 1298 which is modeled after Massachusetts legislation. Its a big step forward for Hawaii, and the Health of our islands. Communities that ban chaining are safer, more humane communities..



Submitted by: Donna Whitaker, Executive Director

Hawaii Island Humane Society

Date: February 2, 2017

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in support of the intent of HB1298 Relating to Animals

The Hawaii Island Humane Society joins with other Animal Welfare Agencies in the State of Hawaii in support of the intent of House Bill 1298, which would set a time limit for the tethering of dogs, along with other provisions.

While we agree with the sponsors of HB1298 that dogs should not be chained 24 hours a day, that goal may be better accomplished by education than legislation. It is virtually impossible to enforce such a provision. Other enforcement challenges are created by the complexity of some of the provisions of HB1298, such as the prohibition against restraints that weigh more than one-eighth of a dog's body weight. We applaud the committee for hearing all three tethering bills introduced in the House this session. But while all intend to enhance the quality of life for dogs, we prefer the language in HB55 to that in HB1298. The language in HB55 is well-vetted and specific.

We ask you to pass HB 1298 and give us the opportunity to work with others on amendments. The Society believes a tethering bill can be crafted that protects dogs, is enforceable and can gain broad support.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee and we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

Donna Whitaker  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Island Humane Society



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 6:00 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1298 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemary Karlsson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:04 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bigisdave@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1298 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM

**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DAVID R STEVENSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please stop this cruelty to our island dogs. It is truly sickening and completely irresponsible for our state to allow this shameful treatment of man's best friend to continue. We must not turn a blind eye to this animal cruelty any longer. Please pass HB 1298 without delay! Mahalo and Aloha

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**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
*People for animals. Animals for people.*

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
and Members  
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8:30 a.m., Capitol conference room 312

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Aloha,

Stephanie Kendrick  
Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society  
808-356-2217



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:35 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alexispeters@gmail.com  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1298 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM

**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debbie Gasparenas	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am adding my voice to the many who are speaking on behalf of all the dogs who have no voice and remain in such abusive circumstances. No dog should be treated with such neglect as to be tethered outside at all times. Please pass this bill HB1298 and begin the humane treatment of all dogs in Hawaii.

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**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB1298**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LYNN Y MURAMARU	Pacific Pet Alliance	Support	Yes

Comments: Support with amendments to include education in addition to financial penalties.

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