



FRIDAY FACTS FROM BARRIO DOGS

► NO MORE CHAINS!

Chaining is bad for dogs, who are social beings and thrive on interaction with people and other animals.

- Chaining creates aggression. Dogs that are otherwise friendly and docile can become anxious and aggressive if they are kept chained.
- Chained dogs don't make good watchdogs; they can't distinguish between a threat or a friend because they aren't used to people. As a result, they're difficult to approach and often not given even minimal attention.
- Dogs tethered by heavy chains can suffer injuries from the chain's weight and suffer from embedded collars.
- Since chained dogs have to eat, sleep, urinate, and poop in a single confined area, owners are less likely to clean the area. Even if there was once grass in the area, the dog's pacing changes it to dirt or mud.

There's no doubt that life at the end a chain is a miserable way to live. Yet people continue to chain their dogs. What can we do about it?

1. Some cities like Austin have ordinances that prohibit dog chaining. Houston does not although the city council could change that by passing an ordinance.
2. State law offers little protection for chained animals. The current Texas statute is unenforceable as written and no citations can be issued, only warnings. In 2017 and 2019, the **Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN)** worked to pass legislation to make Texas' chaining law more humane. Despite having widespread support, the legislation was killed at the last minute. It's unclear if THLN will reintroduce the legislation in the next session in 2021 but please sign up for their alerts to stay informed of their efforts (thln.org/join).
3. **If you see a chained dog whose living conditions constitute cruelty or abuse, report it to the Animal Cruelty Taskforce: <https://927paws.org/>.**

FOR MORE INFO: [HTTP://WWW.UNCHAINYOURDOG.ORG/WAYSTOHELP.HTM](http://WWW.UNCHAINYOURDOG.ORG/WAYSTOHELP.HTM)