

No way to live

Day after day, you watch your neighbor's sad-eyed dog lying chin on paws in the deserted yard, chained on a short tether to a steel post – and looking... always looking... for any attention whatsoever.

The dog that lives outside at the end of a chain doesn't really live at all. Instead, he endures a lonely, miserable existence. Suffering from an all-too-common form of animal cruelty, a dog chained for life faces filthy living conditions, debilitating physical ailments, and far-reaching emotional distress.

Relegated to a confined living space, a chained dog is forced to relieve himself where he lives. So he lives in filth, further compounded by the dirt and mud around him. Any small grassy area the dog once had becomes bare from his constant pacing. Soon his coat is matted with dirt and feces, making him susceptible to disease and parasites, and he's no longer the cute little pup he once was. He smells bad, and no one wants to play – or be his friend.

A chained dog rarely gets regular care. He almost never sees a vet. Often undernourished, his ribs stick out and his gums bleed. And since water dishes easily tip over or freeze, he's also dehydrated. In extreme heat, he pants relentlessly; and in the frigid

cold, he shivers for hours at a time with little, if any, shelter to keep him warm. No wonder raw sores develop around his neck as he strains to escape his collar and confinement.

Since a dog is a pack animal – and since dogs no longer run in packs – a dog counts on his owners for companionship. Without the attention he craves, the isolated dog learns no manners or appropriate ways to socialize. He sits sad and alone day after day – an immobile target for children and other animals. He doesn't understand why he's been rejected. All he really wants is to come inside, to get love, attention, and respect from his owner, to be a pet – not a prisoner. But, because he's afraid and frustrated – and there's nowhere to run when he feels threatened – he may become aggressive, defending himself and his little territory with deadly force.

It's no way to live.

And that's why Bangor Humane Society goes all out to help.

Though BHS can typically find an abandoned or unwanted dog a loving home within ten days, one that's been chained for months or even years is another story – and not that uncommon. One in every ten dogs surrendered at BHS has spent its life at the end of a chain. And with so much to overcome, the chained dog may well stay at the shelter for as long as three months.



During that time, however, recovery begins. BHS staff vet Doc Winters takes dogs with life-threatening conditions immediately into surgery. He also checks for parasites, hair loss, raw feet, broken or worn teeth, pressure wounds, malnutrition, and other problems and prescribes appropriate treatment. Before long, the dog is well on his way to physical health.

Then trained staff members begin to work on behavior modification: housetraining, socializing, and teaching the dog basic obedience. In the past, no one cared where the dog relieved himself. Patient trainers at BHS do care, and they stay close by to take him outside when nature calls, rewarding him with praise and treats as he catches on. That's not to say the dog hasn't learned anything. He's learned from experience. He's learned that when he runs to greet a family member or chase a cat, the chain jerks him back. He's learned distrust and aggression. He's learned to hate the collar and the chain, so staff must teach him not to pull against a leash. His instincts have served him well for survival, but he's learned to bite and to gobble his food. At BHS, obedience specialists help the dog to unlearn such behaviors.

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through the door, he needs one-on-one attention. Not only does he demand valuable staff time and resources, he also requires a whole lot of patience – and love. But when a chained dog becomes adoptable, every minute spent is worth it.

BHS makes great progress with chained dogs, and the staff works to find them new owners who

A little bit of hope...

Maine Works to Change “Chained Dog” Laws

In Maine, legal shelter and tether standards have been set to protect dogs that are confined by chain for more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period.

An outdoor shelter must...

- be of suitable size for the dog
- have a floor above ground
- be waterproof
- protect the dog from the cold
- have four sides and a door
- keep wind and precipitation out of the interior
- have clean bedding material that retains body heat

A tether must...

- attach to the dog and the anchor using swivels
- be attached to a well-fitted collar or harness
- be at least five times longer than the dog

Maine continues to petition for legislation that stops the inhumane chaining of dogs. And there's hope – California law limits tethering a dog to three hours a day!

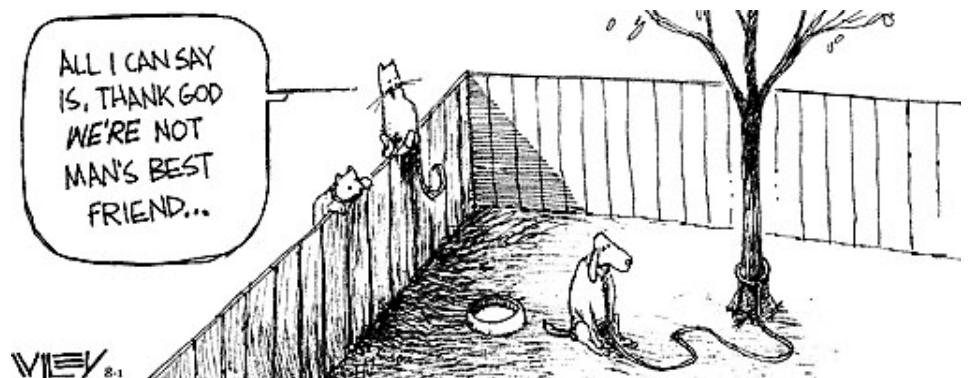
understand their special needs. Sometimes that's not easy. But BHS finds loving families and breed rescue groups to provide for 70% of the 100 chained dogs that come to the shelter over the course of the year.

“We're proud of our success with chained dogs,” said Jeff Mitchell, BHS executive director. “We've rescued so many of them that we've gotten really good at it.”

If you think you could give a dog that's been chained a second chance for happiness, please call BHS (942-8902) and talk with our adoption counselor, Rochelle Black.

Here's what you can do to help a dog chained for life...

1. **Unchain a Dog.** Let a pup off the hook. Whether the dog is yours or one you see at the end of his rope, you can make a difference. Unchain him or convince the owner to do it. With a little training and behavior modification, the dog will make a great indoor pet – and a better guard dog.
2. **Improve the Conditions.** Even if a dog must remain chained, owners and concerned neighbors can make their lives more tolerable. Important considerations: lengthen the tether, spay/neuter the dog, provide shelter against the cold, beat the heat with shade and a kiddie pool, feed and water the dog every day.
3. **Influence Your Neighbor.** Make suggestions that will help free a neighbor's dog from its chains. Suggest or even offer to pay for... a fence, a run, a tie-out, obedience training. Or offer to take the dog to a shelter like BHS where staff members care and will work to give the dog a chance for a better life.
4. **Make a Canine Friend.** See if your neighbor will sell you his dog. Offer to walk the dog. Provide the dog with toys. Every dog needs interaction, stimulation, and exercise.
5. **Contact Animal Control.** When a dog looks sick, when you can see his ribs, when you see that he never has food, water, or shelter, call authorities to intervene. And follow up. Authorities will respond.
6. **Educate Your Community.** You can find all kinds of literature from Dogs Deserve Better (dogsdeservebetter.com) that you can print and distribute. Place a brochure in your neighbor's doorjamb or give flyers to an educator to share with children.
7. **Legislate Animal Protection.** Sign petitions. Write your representatives. Send editorials to the local paper. Find out what Maine Friends of Animals (mfoa.com) is pursuing in the legislature and do what you can to help.



Thanks to unchainyourdog.org for giving us permission to print this cartoon. Visit their site to learn more about how to help dogs chained for life.

Breaking the Chains

Bangor Humane Society certainly had their hands full when Tiger, a 1½ year old Catahoula leopard dog/husky mix, was surrendered to them. Unlike most chained dogs, Tiger was sweet and friendly, but he was short on manners and socially backward.

“He loved to jump all over people and tug against the leash,” said BHS staff member and certified obedience trainer Dawn Weber, who worked with Tiger. “And he wasn’t housetrained – that took a month,” she added. Worst of all, his feet were raw and bloody, and he’d lost hair on his feet, his rear, and around his mouth – most likely the result of living in his own filth day in and day out.

After technicians bathed him, BHS staff vet Doc Winters investigated Tiger’s hair loss and concluded that he had an immune system problem. In time, Tiger’s hair grew back and he put on some weight. He was responding quickly to care, and he looked like a whole new dog – healthy and a lot happier. He so wanted to be with people, however, that he appeared hyperactive. Unfortunately, his frantic actions discouraged potential adopters.

And there’s the rub.



Beautiful blue-eyed Tiger is one of the lucky chained dogs who – thanks to BHS – found a better life.

The longer Tiger stayed at BHS, the more stress he felt. In fact, all the institutionalized animals feel some degree of stress living in a noisy, unfamiliar place with so many other animals. That’s why BHS works so hard to adopt out every animal as soon as possible. But a dog that’s been chained is more vulnerable to stress and takes longer to become adoptable.

And Tiger? Despite going on walks with staff and getting fresh, clean blankets every day, his immune

system began to break down, and he started having accidents. Then – as he’d learned on the chain – he’d walk right through his own waste. And the original unhealthy pattern caught hold again, causing more hair loss and raw feet. “I couldn’t give up on him,” said Dawn. “And no one else at BHS gave up on him either; we were determined to break the cycle.”

That’s when Dawn contacted specialists at Dogs Deserve Better (dogsdeservebetter.com), a national organization that provides education about the effects of chaining dogs and finds homes for the lucky ones that get a second chance. The team at DDB immediately placed Tiger in foster care, where patient volunteers spent time reinforcing positive behaviors in a relaxed, quiet environment. Tiger made great strides. Free of stress, he quickly relearned housetraining; and as he came to understand that he would get the attention he so craved, he stopped jumping. Within two weeks, Dogs Deserve Better had found him a good permanent home. And now – thanks to the perseverance and dedication of BHS staff and the expert advice from folks at Dogs Deserve Better – Tiger happily heads out on hikes and other outdoor adventures with his new best friend.

The Tale of an Alert Cat

Her first name is Jodi. Her middle name – should she have one – would be Mischief. And while this little feline looks like Miss Innocent, she certainly isn’t.

Jodi and I reside in an independent-living cottage in a Blue Hill retirement community. In my unit, I have an emergency telephone that’s connected to a monitor in the main building.

Recently, as I was having lunch on my porch – some distance removed from the emergency phone – I heard a voice calling to me, “Ralph, are you all

right? Ralph, is there a problem?” At first, I anticipated a visitor and waited for the doorbell to ring. But it didn’t. Again the voice, “Ralph, are you all right? Ralph, is there a problem?”

Suddenly, I found myself steeped in a mystery, and I undertook an investigation. Rather quickly I discovered Jodi, a climber and a jumper I had adopted from the Bangor Humane Society, cavorting along the bookshelves above my computer and landing a paw on the phone’s alert button. Mystery solved.



Of course, the nursing staff was genuinely concerned. Me? I was genuinely embarrassed. Jodi? She just looked at me with dismay – as I unleashed a verbal reprimand – and her expression seemed to say, “What’s all the fuss?”

~ Ralph Pettie

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Matthew & Ann Mitchell John & Diane Mitchell

Oscar beloved pet of Katherine Cook Green Acres Kennel Shop

Edgar Elizabeth Pearson

Dora Jean & Daussie (two wonderful kitties) Frank & Darlene Alley

Dustin beloved cat of Hope Ullman Margaret Johnstone

Their cat Desdemona Brenda & Lawrence Jacobs

Cathy, Bootsie Baby and Nosey Bear Coates Arthur Coates

Rufous her cat Susan Mc Nerney

Pauline & Philip Foley Kathryn Ann Foley

Rusty (her 14 year old English Springer Spaniel) Gail Fisher

Heidi (dog) & Joey & Nemo (cats) Marjorie Phillips & Marilynn Bishop

Sage their cat Matthew & Denise Derosby

Dax (dog) Sharon Buswell

Abby their poodle Donna Billings

Blackberry (a wonderful cat & terrific individual) Barbara Ericson

Spirit & Tobey Arthur & Sylvia Edgecomb

Toby (golden retriever) & Tabby (her mother's late cat adopted from BHS)

Donald & Barbara Perry

Brighett Virginia Sjogren

Bajan Young Patty Hamilton

Their daughter Jill Cardello (12-16-66 to 6/20/96) Philip & Karin Leary Jr.

Their precious son Matthew Pasquerillo Peter & Patricia Phillips

Coco beloved pet of Ginny Sucy Mary Marshall

Cory (13 year old Pom just passed away) Robert & Vera Merchant

Zak Debbie Dean

Ernest Larson & Loraine Harriman Julie Stiles

Harry Bragg Sr. & Everett Littlefield Jr. Caren, Rusty (Harry) & Travis Bragg, Dan Freeman & Kathy Doore

Princess & Tinkerbelle (cats) & Molly (dog) Dorothy Jordan

Casey Diane Tucker

Kitty Carolyn & James McKinnon

Suzy Sherry & Bryant Davis

Raphael, Skiddy & Clay Susan & Boyd Burpee

Sable beloved dog of Suzanne Flood Sarah Shaafi

Sandy, Hippitty, Oct & Pip Dee, Milo, Agnes & Ed Ferguson

Murray her beloved dog passed away 12/19/06 Cheryl Foss

Dax beloved dog of Sharon Buswell Gail Young

Nikki beloved dog of Laura Benoit Paula Benoit

Mittens & Lightning Albert and Marilyn Worden

The many dear cats she has known Janet Hooke

Muzsy her beloved shar pei she had for 12 years passed a year ago Katherine & Randolph Higgins Jr.

Moose Maureen Rosenberg

Their loving cat Cole Josh & Kim O'Donnell

Clouis her Pekinese who passed 9/1/06 Sally Sue Pearson

Ace the dog Travis Armes

Their beloved golden Honey Thomas Chalmers & Lauren Vander Zanden

Schultz a BHS cat beloved pet of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson Dana & Alicia Freese Jr.

Sage beloved dog of Terri Taylor C. Elizabeth Trefts

Ashes & Pumpkin beloved cats of Patricia Brezovsky Tina Marie Bowlin-Norris, Lindsay Collins, Tammy Dube, Rita Stanhope

Bear Sarna beloved pet of Red Sarna adopted CBHS as a young dog Lewis Perrody & Jean Allen

Bentley Lanham beloved dog of Stephanie Lanham Cynthia & Bernard Kubetz

Sofie beloved pet of Tracey Mahaffey Joel & Christie Mahaffey

Sophie & Jade Freese Duane & Wanda Freese

Lady Carolynn & Norman Knapp

Their beloved pup - her candle burns brightly, we miss her each & every day Susan & Mitchell Perkins

Koda beloved dog of Tracy Dorcy Suzanne Moffat

Kennedy beloved cocker spaniel of Irene & John Hafford Green Acres Kennel Shop

Ameika beloved German shepherd of Diane & Tim Ingerson Green Acres Kennel Shop

Clarence & Smalley Jean two wonderful & loving companions to Joanne & David Jill Kulbe

Lyla beloved dog of Doug & Andrea McKenna Virginia Ford

Forest Molly Buzick

Our 19-year-old cat Marbles Cheyrl, Shawn, & Andrew Sullivan

In honor of

Meghan Elizabeth's 11th birthday Barbara Sanborn

Cameron Norton's birthday Liz Grandmaison & Kevin Norton

Deena Sole Linda Tracy

Fred Boyce Joan Decato

Tinker Melvin Joan Decato

Edgar Brown Joan Decato

Torey Pauline Jude

Dasher Asia Serwik

Toto beloved pet of Martie Crone Aunt Charlene, Uncle Chris, Cousins Aaron & Tinker Holten

Patches, Pumpkin & Bella Neil & Saranne Boyington Jr.

Chelsea Dolein Jacob Dunnell & Marie Maxine Rioux

Mali Perfit Thanks for all you do for the community BHS Patrice Amisano

Shann Gillespie for her years of service at United Technology Center - Trish Hayes

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Baxter, Mosey, Molly & Tawny (all rescued dogs) Bruce & Candice Morrill

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All the animals in the care of BHS Lorraine Stewart

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Green Acres Kennel Shop Barbara Csavinsky

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Sunny (poodle) & Lucy (rescued poodle)

Merry Christmas Debbie King

Sunny (adopted June 2005) Edward Tucker

Willy Joanne Boynton

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Corky Leon & Danra Neihouse

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Baxter adopted from BHS 8/2005 Jeremy & Tiffany Nash

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Casey & Bogie (two former stray cats) Yvonne Markin

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Carrie Goodhue-Ritchie Clinton Goodhue
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Sandra Oxley for Christmas Debra Kearns

Beatrix & Smoke for their brief stay at BHS Renate Klein

Her precious kitten Runaway Ginger Graves

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Betty & Troy Furrow for Christmas Elizabeth Kenney

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Grace Brochu for Christmas Barbara Higgins

Janet Leighton for Christmas Jeffrey Leighton

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Janice Maddocks for Christmas Carolyn Clough

All the Reynolds cats & dogs Ellen Reynolds

Isaac, Durgen the best two cats ever Victoria & David Ballard

Samantha the cat George & Marion Chebba

Timothy & Connie Tracy for Christmas Patrick Dean

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Jospeh & Jean Meggiver Irene & Dawn Roundy

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Hendricks & Little Bit two wonderful dogs
Tom & Jusy Gass
Spotty Susan Dexter Camp, Christopher & Elija Bates
Beau, Gizmo & Ying Yang Dr. Harold Z. Daniel Jr & Kathrine Daniel
Maz Walker Bill & Judy Walker
Tia Buzzel Susan Buzzel
Felix & Lady Jon & Margaret Geiger
All her critters 5-cats, 1-dog all adopted from shelters including BHS Lynn Peppers
Her cats Moe & Sassy Nancy DeYoung
Patches & Pirate Leonard & Kathryn Shultz
Mya Edgecomb on her 2nd birthday
Pauline Leonard

Mickey & Buttercup adopted from BHS
Patrick & Shari Tabor

Pamela Dean Catherine Fox & Mark Whiting

Sue Foss, Denise Simoneau, Ann Mourkas, Paula Leavitt & Jennifer Wellington
6th Grade teachers at James F. Doughty School Catherine Cox

A special thank you to Mrs. Vigue's 3rd grade class at Washington Street School in Brewer for all the items donated for all the pets we care for.



Thank you!

With a Little Bit of Heart

When the great and powerful Wizard of Oz spoke about good-deed-doers, he talked about having a heart, but he never specified an age limit. Recently, the Bangor Humane Society learned that good-deed-doers can, indeed, be no older than 5.

Danielle Arbour, BHS volunteer and events manager, and her dog McKensie visited with 4 and 5-year-old students from the Indian Island School Early Childhood Program and the Stillwater Montessori School Primary Program on the schools' combined Community Day in January to teach them about putting ID tags on their pets. "With a collar and an ID tag," explained Danielle, "if McKensie ever gets lost, anyone who finds her will know where she belongs and can call me to come get her." Of course, McKensie, a 6 ½ year old border collie/sheltie mix stole the show. Dani told the kids all about adopting McKensie from the humane society and about McKensie's favorite things: long walks, good meals, and tons of attention.

Then, the two classes, led by Indian Island's Karen Thomes and Montessori's Joanne Alex, moved

to the next step in the project – collecting donations to help the animals at BHS. "With input from our students, we decided to help animals for this year's project. So we selected Bangor Humane Society and Bobbi Fowler's Animal Orphanage in Old Town. And we designed the lesson to develop a sense of community in our youngsters, to help them understand their responsibility and to find ways to reach out and help," said Thomes.

And they learned well. Schoolchildren of all ages at both schools brought in items that Bangor Humane Society had posted on their wish list, items they *always* need to care for the thousands of animals that arrive at the shelter: canned food, blankets, tennis balls, even office supplies. And since Bangor Humane Society spends at least \$100 to provide veterinary care, grooming, and food for a single abused or neglected animal, supplies provided by big-hearted donors certainly do help!

The two younger classes also spent about a month crafting adoption day goody bags for BHS. They made cat toys with pom-poms and pipe cleaners, muslin bandanas that they

embellished with fabric markers, yummy homemade dog biscuits, clay pet ornaments, and cat and dog bookmarks that listed helpful pet care tips. Then they put the treats together in hand-decorated gift bags, 25 for cats and 25 for dogs, to go home with new pet owners and their fuzzy new family members.

And that's how Bangor Humane Society added the good-deed-doers from Indian Island and Stillwater Montessori to their list of friends... kids who'll grow up understanding that sometimes animals can't make it on their own. Sometimes they need help from loving, involved community members with big hearts.

We can always use donations! If you can help, please bring in any of the following items we need right now: bleach, cat litter, blankets, towels, paper towels. Or save yourself the trip and send what you can in a check – we'll be happy to spend it for you.

Wish list items can be dropped off any time at 693 Mount Hope Avenue. If we are not open, you may leave items in the foyer. But our wish list items are always changing, so call 942-8902 for updated information. Thank you!



A Whale of a Story

When people treat their pets like property – rather than like the sentient, feeling beings they really are – they underestimate them.

A whale story out of San Francisco vividly illustrates the point.

A fisherman near the Golden Gate Bridge spotted a female humpback struggling against a network of crab traps and lines wrapped around her body and dragging on her mouth. Fearing for her survival, he called for help, and an environmental rescue team arrived within hours. Quickly assessing the danger of her plight, the team soon found themselves in the waters of the Pacific manually cutting the lines to set the whale free. Though the exploit placed the divers in great peril, it was the only way to save the tangled mammal.

The divers worked for hours while the whale watched them and waited patiently. Once free, the divers said she seemed to dance in joyous circles. Then she returned to them, approaching each of her rescuers and nudging them gently. She shared just what she felt – her warm, and heartfelt thanks. Then, with one last look and a flip of her tail, she headed west toward deep, blue waters.

We can't do it without you!

Since we receive no local, state, or federal funding, we rely on your gifts and support to keep the shelter running every day. *Thanks so much!*

I'd like to donate

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

This gift is in memory/honor of _____

Please make checks payable to **Bangor Humane Society** and mail to 693 Mount Hope Ave., Bangor
Bangor Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

