

Humane Education

Educate Yourself: Helping the Pet Next Door

[Editor's Note: Below you will find a letter for your use. Copy it, share it and use it as often as needed. Let it inspire your own letter. This letter is intended to help you help chained dogs. Currently the ordinance only applies to dogs in Raleigh city limits, but you can adapt the letter for non-ordinance locations too.

Remember, while it is easy to make quick judgments, sometimes the best way to make a difference is to educate and engage in open dialogue. We hope that this letter can help you get started. Visit www.spcawake.org/advocacy for other letters and resources to help pass ordinances in other areas and to help the pet next door, and their owners. 🐾



This letter is intended to help you help chained dogs.

Dear Neighbor:

I am leaving you this letter because I am concerned about your pet. I wanted to give you some information that I hope will help you better understand your pet's needs and the local pet ordinances. This letter is meant to make your life and your pet's life better.

On July 1, 2009, the City of Raleigh passed a dog tethering ordinance. The ordinance states that a dog cannot be tethered for more than three hours total in any 24-hour period. The ordinance defines tethering as a means of tying out or fastening a dog outdoors on a rope, chain or other line for restraining a dog. Basically it means keeping a dog chained.

The ordinance also restricts the type of tether:

- It must be at least 10-feet long and attached in a way so that it does not get wrapped around anything else or cause possible strangulation.
- It must be attached to a buckle-type collar or body harness.
- It cannot weigh more than 10% of the dog's body weight.
- The dog must have access to food and water.

If you violate the ordinance, the city can charge you with a misdemeanor and fine you. You can learn more at www.raleigh-nc.org or by calling 919-831-6560.

I'm guessing that you have your reasons for keeping your dog chained. A lot of people do it because they want a guard dog or because they don't want a dog inside the house. But the reality is that a dog tied up in the yard is a lot less scary to an intruder than a dog on the other side of a door.

Perhaps you wish that you didn't have to tether your dog, but you don't want them inside the house. If that is the case, I know that fences are expensive but there are some community resources that build fences for dogs that are happy to help you. Those resources are as follows:

- Coalition for Unchained Dogs, unchaineddogscoalition@yahoo.com, 919-308-3660
- People United for Pets, info@pupnc.org, 919-301-0021

If you want more information about taking care of your pet, I suggest calling the SPCA of Wake County at 919-772-2326 or visiting their web site at www.spcawake.org.

I hope that you can accept this letter with an open heart and open mind. I've provided it with the best of intentions for the safety and welfare of your pet.

Sincerely,

Your Neighbor



This letter was provided by the SPCA of Wake County. Please visit www.spcawake.org for more information or call 919-772-2326. The SPCA of Wake County is not part of Raleigh Animal Control and is not a law enforcement agency. We are providing this letter as a service to people concerned about animals. Thank you.

Kids Doing Things for Animals

A Local Birthday Party Goes to the Dogs



Above: After delivering donations to the SPCA, Claire S. enjoys a cuddle from a grateful puppy.

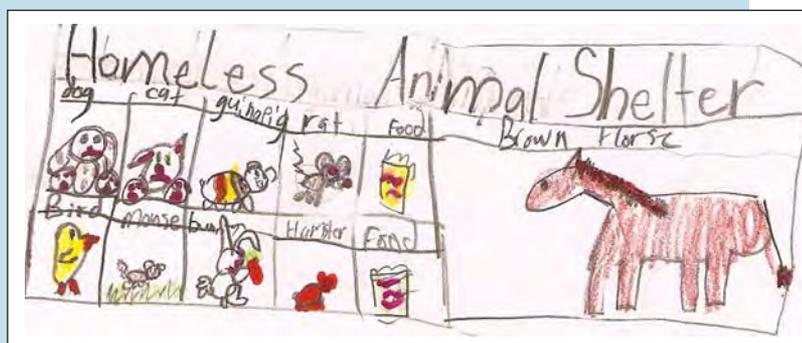
Inspired by her love for animals, Claire S. of Cary decided to have a "Going to the Dogs!" birthday party. Welcomed by chalk paw prints on the sidewalk and a sign that said "Welcome to Claire's Kennel!" above her front door, guests brought donations for the SPCA instead of gifts. After the festivities, Claire and her mom Jan delivered the donations to the Adoption Center and enjoyed many cuddles of gratitude from SPCA residents. 🐾

The Power of a Kids' Press

Arden S., and her friend, Gretchen M. might seem like normal nine-year-olds by day, but these real-life Lois Lane's believe in the power of the press.

Armed with a laptop and a newspaper delivery boy (Arden's dad) these ingenious fourth graders created a neighborhood newspaper (pictured below) that they sold to raise money for the SPCA.

The girls are already planning a lemonade stand, and Arden's little sister Elise plans to collect items for the SPCA as part of her 7th birthday celebration! 🐾



Above: An illustration from Arden and Gretchen's neighborhood newspaper, a fundraiser for the SPCA.