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 am 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, unchaindogscoalition@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.