

AS LIFE PASSES THEM BY.....

A Miserable Life



Almost none of these dogs know anything other than being tied to a chain. They don't know what it is to walk, what it is to run after a ball, nor what it is to be petted and cuddled.

Chained by the neck, these animals do not live.... they just exist without respect, without affection, without exercise, without social interaction and often, without the most basic food and hygiene care.

As the days turn into weeks, weeks into months and months into years, most of these dogs lie down, sit, sleep, eat, drink, urinate and defecate within the same two-meter radius....

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In Portugal, thousands of dogs are sentenced to life imprisonment, without having committed any crime. They are kept in chains for a lifetime; a punishment that, for them, is worse than death.

Many animals don't even have a shelter, others sleep in a can or canopy that barely protects them from rain and extreme temperatures. They sit on mud or cold cement, often without access to fresh water. Throughout the country, too many dogs suffer in silence because many people are unaware of their suffering, others do not care and others simply do not want to "meddle".

Why is it wrong to chain a dog?

Keeping a dog in chains is one of the worst punishments imaginable. Dogs are social, pack animals..... they need to be integrated into a family with which they can interact. Depriving a dog of social interaction and physical exercise is extremely cruel and goes against its nature.

Chaining an animal condemns it to spending most of its life imprisoned and has a very negative effect on temperament, behaviour and health. The natural instinct to be in a group is suppressed and a chained or isolated dog only learns to hate the loneliness and having his freedom and movements restricted, while the rest of the world moves around at will. A chained dog is an animal constantly tormented.



A Case for Real Suffering....

Rex is just one example of a pet that has spent his life chained to a dog house. Like any other dog, he has a high instinct to protect his limited territory. When a stranger approaches, Rex sees that approach as a threat and responds according to his instinct to "flee or fight". As he is trapped by a chain and unable to escape, he is forced to defend himself. Fear and aggression are typical feelings for a trapped dog, often resulting in the attack and/or biting of anyone perceived as threatening.

Thank you for reading this leaflet. When you are finished, please be kind enough to offer it to someone else.

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Why get Involved?

Keeping an animal in chains is treating it as a possession, ignoring the fact that it is a being worthy of respect and kindness. It is the duty of us all to condemn the terrible suffering to which animals in chains are subjected - we should defend and respect these loyal, loving and compassionate creatures who passionately want to be our friends.

Community awareness and social pressure can be a decisive factor in resolving some of these situations. It is up to us (as citizens, neighbors, acquaintances, etc.) to inform and sensitize people who keep a dog in chains or permanently confined to small places (eg. balconies).

The lives of many dogs have already been radically changed, simply because someone has cared enough to intervene.