

Chained Dogs



Is it legal to chain dogs permanently in Portugal? The short and simple answer is, No!

The law specifically states that:

Animals must have adequate space for their physiological and ethological needs, and it should allow:

- *The practice of adequate physical exercise;*
- *The escape and refuge of the animals subject to aggression by others.*

Definition of external enclosures for companion animals

The law defines 'external enclosure' as:

A surface enclosed by a fence, walls, gratings or metal nets, often situated outside a fixed building, to which animals kept in cages or a cage or enclosure are allowed to move freely during certain periods of time, according to their ethological and physiological needs, such as exercising.

The harsh reality

Unfortunately, you can still see many chained dogs in Portugal. Some dogs are kept restrained by ropes or chains to trees or fences. This is especially so in the rural areas of Portugal. Restraining dogs with chains can never be justified. However, we should refrain from taking action ourselves especially if you feel that trying to help the dog may lead to any confrontation with the owner.

What should you do?

If you encounter any permanently chained dogs in Portugal, try to talk to the owner (if you feel safe). Never put yourself in any danger! If the issue persists you can seek help and report the case to the respective authorities in your area. You should report cases of animal cruelty to the GNR's environmental unit, [SEPNA](#).