

13 Ways to Make Your Dog Happy!



Man's Best Friend?

You can keep a dog's **BODY** alive with just food.

To keep a dog's **SPIRIT** alive, s/he needs love, attention & exercise!

Like humans, dogs are social creatures.

Your dog wants to be with his pack: YOU!

Wouldn't you enjoy having a dog who sleeps by your bed, greets you when you come home, protects your family, and is a loyal friend?

Would you be happy living on chain your whole life, with no one to talk to and nothing to do?

Just as humans enjoy having family & friends, so do dogs!

1. Bring your dog inside! Your dog will be so happy and you will have a new, true friend. See pages 4-5 for how to train an "outside" dog to be an "inside" one.

2. Put up a fence. Fences give dogs freedom and make it easier for you approach him, since he won't be jumping at the end of a chain. Fences don't have to cost much. You can sink posts and attach chicken wire for the cheapest fence (see following pages).

Workers at Home Depot, Tractor Supply, and hardware stores will show you what to buy and give advice. Ask fencing companies if they have leftover materials to donate.

3. If your dog can escape your fence:

- Extend fence height by installing tall metal T-posts and attaching mesh fencing to the top of the posts (see following pages).
- Buy cheap bamboo or reed fencing, which comes in 6-foot rolls, and attach to the existing fence. It's hard for dogs to climb this slick fencing.
- Install an electric fence. At pet and home improvement stores you can buy kits for fenced and unfenced yards. Some attach to an existing fence and others are buried underground.
- Install a "hot wire" to the top of your existing fence. Call a farm supply or hardware store for advice. Hotwires are commonly used to contain cows and horses. They can keep burglars away, too!
- To stop diggers, bury chicken wire one foot below where the fence meets the ground (bend in sharp edges) or put concrete blocks around the bottom of the fence. You can dig a trough under the fence and fill it with concrete (along the whole fence or in "trouble spots").



TJ used to live on a chain and became a great house dog!

4. Spaying and neutering will help your dog calm down. A sterilized dog won't try to escape to find a mate! Sterilization will NOT change your dog's personality but does provide health benefits. Contact your local humane society for low-cost spay/neuter programs in your area or contact **Spay USA** at 1-800-248-7729 or SpayUsa.org for a coupon.

5. Replace tight old collars with a new nylon collar. You should be able to easily fit two fingers between the dog's neck and the collar. If you need to add a hole, hammer a thick nail through the collar, or heat a pick and poke it through.

6. Provide food and fresh water EVERY day. Every day you eat, your dog needs to eat! Put a water bowl in a tire or hole in the ground to keep it from tipping. Attach a bucket to a doghouse or fence with a bungee cord. Farm supply stores sell large rubber livestock bowls that are hard to tip over.

7. Provide good shelter in winter. You can buy dog igloos from discount stores, farm supply stores, and hardware stores.



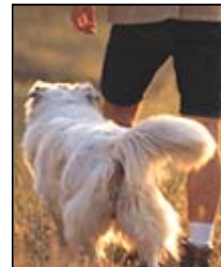
- Dogs get cold just like we do, especially short-haired dogs. If it's too cold for you to sleep outside, your dog will probably also be cold. If you can't bring your dog in, fill doghouses with hay or cedar chips to help your dog retain body heat. (Cedar chips won't rot like hay, but some dogs may be allergic.) If you use hay and it gets wet, spread it out on a sunny day to dry.

To keep cold air out, cover the door with a plastic flap. You can use a car mat, piece of carpet or carpet runner, towel, or blanket. You can buy cheap vinyl by the yard at fabric stores.

- Doghouses should be large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around, but small enough to trap body heat.
- Wooden doghouses should be raised a few inches off of the ground to prevent rotting and keep out rain. Flat concrete blocks are an easy way to raise a doghouse.

8. Give toys and rawhides. Dogs like to play, just like humans do! A big rawhide, which you can get at the grocery, will give your dog several hours of fun. Even a knotted towel or ball can be fun for your dog!

9. Go on walks! Your dog will be so happy to get of the yard, see new things, and smell new smells! Walking is great exercise for both of you. Prong collars look harsh, but don't hurt and make it much easier to control a large and strong dog. Leash training will take some time, but you will establish a routine in a few weeks! (see following pages)

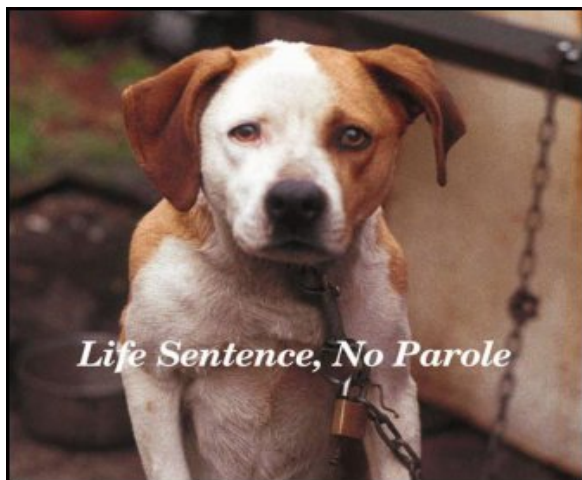


10. Go to school. Obedience classes can help your dog learn to be a good "inside" dog. Most pet stores offer inexpensive dog training classes.

11. Protect from fleas, ticks, and worms. Biting fleas make a dog's life miserable. You can buy flea treatment at grocery, discount, and pet stores. Most farm supply stores sell wormers and vaccinations at much cheaper prices than vets. Heartworms will eventually kill your dog. You can get preventative at the vet.

12. Provide shade and a kiddie pool in summer. A doghouse isn't the same thing as shade. Doghouses get hot in summer! Bring your dog in during heat waves. Plant trees or create shade by stretching a tarp between two trees.

Dogs enjoy cooling off in a baby pool as much as kids do. What a cheap way for your dog to beat the heat!



13. Consider finding a new home for your dog if you can't meet his needs. Talk to your humane society, put an ad in the paper, post to social media, or ask friends and family. If you can't provide for your dog, finding him a new home is the kindest thing you can do.

Your dog deserves more than being a prisoner in your backyard

Please give him some freedom!

Are Chained Dogs Good Guard Dogs?

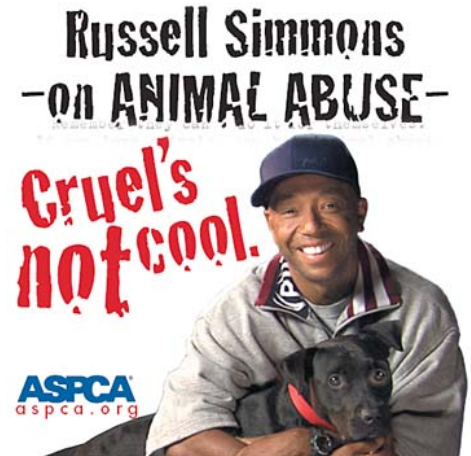
Chaining makes dogs aggressive - not protective.

A protective dog is used to people and can tell when his family is threatened. Dogs learn to be protective by spending lots of time with people. When your dog loves you, he will want to protect you.

Leaving a dog on a chain is how to raise an **aggressive** dog. Aggressive dogs don't know the difference between friends and enemies, because they are not used to people. Aggressive dogs will attack anyone - children, a policeman, the meter reader, the mailman, other dogs.

If your aggressive dog attacks someone, you could be sued and made to pay medical bills. Your dog could be quarantined or even put to sleep.

Every year chained dogs attack, injure, and kill children. Visit MothersAgainstDogChaining.org to read more.



A chained dog can't stop an intruder! All he can do is bark.

Do you get up and look every time your dog barks?? Barking is not a good way to protect your house.

Inside dogs provide very good security.

There are news stories all the time about inside dogs who save their families from fires, intruders, and gas leaks. A robber will think twice about breaking into your home if he hears and sees a dog on the other side of the door. A robber will not think twice about breaking into your home if there is a chained dog in the yard.

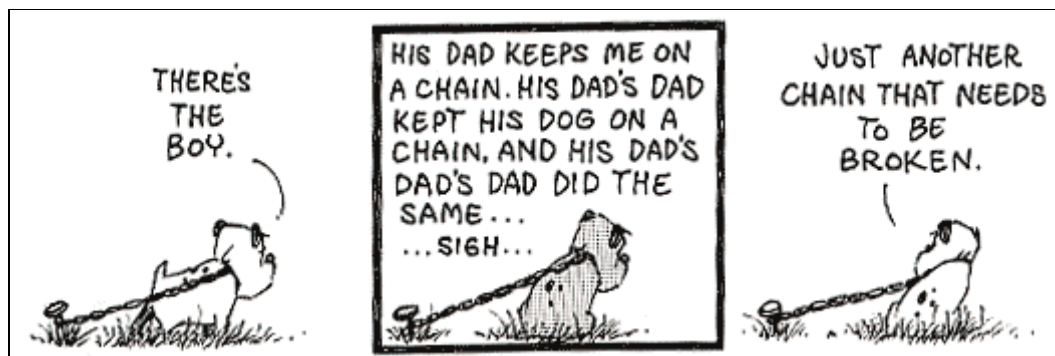


K9 police dogs are the best guard dogs, and they live inside with the family.

K9 police officers are with their dogs 24/7. Police dogs become a loved part of the police officer's family. They are not chained in the yard. They are treated with kindness. This kindness makes the dog want to protect the officer.

If you need a burglar alarm, consider an electronic one.

Installation is usually free, and the monthly fee costs about the same amount as caring for a dog. When your alarm goes off for more than a minute or so, the police will be sent to your home. Better than a barking dog!



Dog Care and Behavior

Teaching your dog to be a well behaved family member will take time, but will be worth it as your dog becomes a loved friend!

Dogs who have been chained can make great house dogs, but will need extra training. **Your "outside" dog will be excited when first coming in. Don't give up!** It will take some time for your dog to calm down and become an indoor family member.

For more info, search online for terms such as *stop dog barking*, *dog pulls on leash*, etc. Two good websites: cesarsway.com and aspca.org/pet-care

Behavior Tips

- **Barking:** Chained dogs bark out of frustration and loneliness. Just getting your dog off the chain will reduce barking. Dogs who are exercised and happy are less likely to bark and will sleep instead!

Try teaching the word "quiet." When your dog barks, after two or three woofs, praise her for sounding the alarm. Then say "quiet" and give a treat. Most dogs stop barking because they can't eat and bark at the same time. During this quiet time praise her, "Good girl, quiet." Each time she is told "quiet" and succeeds, give a treat.

- **Baths:** You will enjoy spending time with your dog more if she's nice and clean! The easiest way to bathe a dog outside is to tie her to a deck, fence, etc. so she can't escape. You can loop a leash through/around the porch rail, etc. The Rapid Bath system is great - it fits to your hose so the soap and water come out together. When you bathe your dog, throw the collar in the wash to keep it soft and clean.
- **Begging:** Decide at the beginning that no one will feed the dog from the table. Don't allow guests to break this rule. Feed him before your meal. If he never gets to eat from the table, he won't try!

- **Chewing/Mouthing:** Dogs need to get used to the feel of human skin, but also need to learn how to be gentle. When the dog nips on you, yank back and say, "Yip". Not the way a person would say it, but the way a puppy would say it...high-pitched and loud! She will think she's hurting you.

If this doesn't work, try pulling your hand away and turning totally away from the dog for 5 seconds. Do this every time she chews. She will learn that she gets ignored for chewing on you. Replace whatever she was chewing on with a rawhide or toy and praise her for playing with the toy. A quick spritz in the face with a water spray bottle will help deter mouthing.

- **Destroying Things:** Never leave your new dog alone in the house. You are asking for trouble if you let an untrained dog have full run of the house! A crate or small room such as a bathroom is best. Privileges are earned and your new dog must be trained before having total freedom.

Keep chew toys and rawhides handy. A spray bottle with water is a great way to stop bad behavior. When he starts to chew on the furniture or act inappropriately, spritz him in the face with water. Dogs hate this! After a few times you should be able to just hold up the bottle to stop the behavior!

- **Digging:** If your dog is digging from boredom, walks and coming inside will redirect his energy. If digging to escape, bury chicken wire along the base of the fence. Dedicated diggers may need a "digging zone" with loose soil or sand. Bury treats there to encourage digging in that area.



Chance is happy to be free from his chain!

- **Jumping:** When your dog jumps on you, quickly bring your knee up and turn away. Don't say anything or look her in the eye. Your dog wants your attention and will take negative attention as well as positive attention. Only give your dog attention when all four feet are on the floor, or preferably when she is sitting.

Leaving and returning should be low-key. If you come home and greet your dog loudly, excited, and full of energy, your dog will be excited, too. Stay calm and encourage calm behavior before giving out treats and attention.

- **Leash Training:** **Start with short walks, and don't get discouraged if it takes awhile for walks to become easy!** I think a prong collar with retractable leash works best for large, strong dogs. Prong collars look fierce, but they don't hurt the dog if used right. Harnesses can also work well.



Have him sit while being leashed. Keep the leash short and go at a pretty fast pace to keep him moving. Take some small treats or a cut-up hot dog and offer them close to your side to encourage him to stay near you.



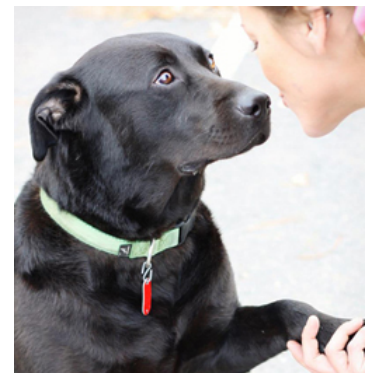
When he pulls, stop walking and pull him close to your leg. Holding onto the prong collar lead, slowly start walking again. Stop and bring him close every time he pulls.

Let the leash out longer when he is walking easily. He will learn he gets more freedom when walking correctly.

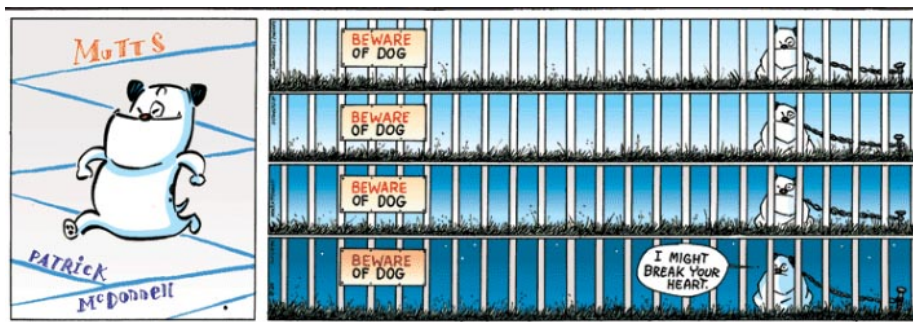
- **Introducing Two Dogs:** Leave your current dog at home when getting the new dog. Introduce them on neutral territory, such as outside on the sidewalk, then take them on a walk to get used to each other. Next, let them in the yard together on leashes, then let them run around the yard. Then go to a large room in the house where they can keep some distance. Feed them separately for a few days and don't leave treats or toys out they can fight over. Don't leave them in the same room alone until you are confident they are getting along.

Dogs will have to work out between them which is alpha or "the boss", so some growling and posturing is natural. Keep that water spray bottle handy and spritz in their faces if they get overly aggressive, then praise when they act nicely!

- **Sitting:** Hold a treat in front of her nose, then above her head until she sits back to follow the treat in your hand. Repeat the word sit several times, then immediately give praise and the treat. Most dogs quickly learn the combination of the word "sit" and a hand motion above their head.



Shawnee learns to sit after being freed from her chain.



Houstraining Tips

The Golden Rule of Houstraining is...

Never let an un-houstrained dog out of your sight while the dog is inside! Every time a dog relieves himself inside, it teaches him it's OK. An un-houstrained dog should be either:

- (1) Inside, with you watching him
- (2) Outside
- (3) In a crate or small confined area like a bathroom

If you follow these rules, your dog should be trained in a week or two. Adult dogs can be houstrained, too!

- The best method is crate training. Get a pet carrier or cage big enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in. This will be the dog's "den" and sleeping place.
- Dogs are clean animals and want to keep their home and sleeping area clean. Even young puppies will try their best not to go inside their crate.
- On the dog's first day home, let him wander in and out of the crate. Put a towel and some treats in it. Put the crate close to where the family hangs out, so your dog will feel like part of the family.
- Young puppies must go out many times a day, 30 minutes after eating or drinking. Older dogs need to go out four or more times daily.
- **Take the dog to the SAME spot outdoors.** The smell will remind him why he's there.
- When puppy relieves himself outside, PRAISE him, "Good Dog!!" and give him a treat. **Praise is the key to houstraining!** Your dog will learn that going outside means treats, and will be eager to go out.
- If you're inside and notice your dog starting to sniff and circle, grab him and take him out. If you catch him in "mid-stream", startle pup with a noise and take him out.
- What if you notice a mess on the floor but didn't see your dog do it? Clean up the mess without fussing at your dog. **Dogs live in the moment and won't understand that you are punishing him for something he did in the past.** Rubbing your dogs' nose in the mess or hitting him with a newspaper won't work at this point.
- Use a cleaner that will kill smells and bacteria, such as Simple Green (grocery stores), Nature's Miracle (pet / hardware stores), or vinegar and water. If you don't clean the spot very well, the smell might make him go there again.
- At bedtime, take your dog outside and then lock him in his crate for the night. He'll make an effort not to foul his bed. Then take him outside first thing in the morning. Some young puppies may not have the muscle control to hold it all night and will have to go out during the night.
- Don't feed your dog after about 6:00 p.m. This will help your dog make it through the night.
- Dogs can be left in a crate 4-6 hours. Dogs should not be left in a crate more than 8 hours. If you can't come home during the day, consider leaving the dog outside.
- Tips: Hang a jingle bell on the door and jingle it when you take your dog out. He will learn to ring the bell when he needs to go out.

Install a dog door. Dog doors are a wonderful invention! Dogs quickly learn to come and go on their own. You can buy dog doors at pet stores and discount stores.



How to Build a Mesh Fence

You can buy all materials at farm supply stores such as Tractor Supply Company or stores such as Home Depot.

Contact **Dogs Deserve Better** for fencing grants up to \$250. 757-357-9292 or info@dogsdeservebetter.org

Supplies

1. **Posts.** Choose metal T-posts or wooden posts. You can get wooden posts cut to specifications. Generally, you place posts 8 feet apart.
2. **Mesh cloth.** It comes in rolls, in different strengths. Your fence will be stronger if you get a strong mesh (like the welded wire below.)
3. **Baling wire or metal ties** to attach the mesh to the posts. Baling wire comes in a roll and can be cut into pieces with wire cutters. A heavy duty staple gun can be used to attach mesh fencing to wooden posts.
4. **Concrete** if setting wooden posts. One 40-lb bag of concrete can be used to set two posts.
5. **Shovel** or post-hole digger if setting posts in concrete.
6. **Gate** (if you can't walk into the fenced area from your door). You can buy pre-made chain link gates or make one out of wood. Gates must be set in concrete to be sturdy.



Mesh cloth and T-post

Instructions

- Decide where you want your fence to go. Mark the lines with spray paint or push wooden stakes into the ground and tie string from stake to stake.
- Lay posts next to your lines, where you plan to stand them up.
 - The closer you place the posts to each other, the stronger the fence will be. About 8 feet apart is good.
- Pound metal T-posts into the ground with a hammer or post driver. Set wooden posts with concrete.
 - T-posts should be put in the ground until the "V" is covered. Wooden posts should have about a foot underground.
- Attach mesh to T-posts with wire ties or baling wire. Attach mesh at the top of the post, in the middle of the post, and at the bottom of the post.
 - Stretch the fencing **as tightly as possible** against the posts. One person should pull the mesh very tightly to the edge of the post while someone else attaches the mesh to the post
 - Be sure the mesh is all the way to the ground.
- Carefully measure where the gate posts will go to ensure the gate will swing and latch correctly. Set gate posts in concrete to ensure they will be sturdy.



Welded wire



Wood gate with welded wire stapled to it

How to Set a Post

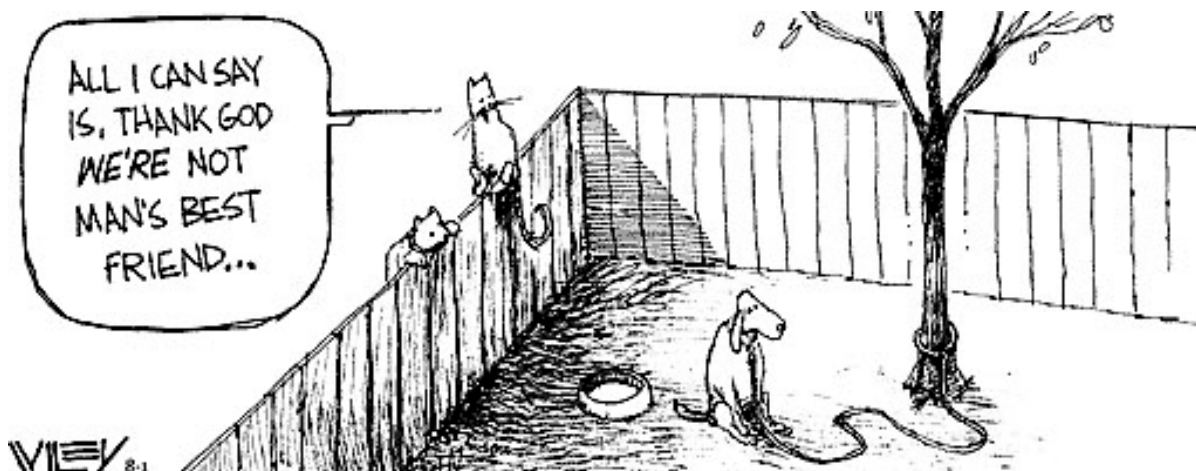
Materials:

- Strong wooden post
- 40 lb. bag concrete mix per post. You can use quick-set.
- Stick or dowel
- Water from a bucket or hose
- Shovel or post-hole digger

Instructions:

1. Dig a hole for the post. The post needs to be 1.5 to 2 feet underground.
2. Put a few rocks in the bottom of the hole, then set the post in the hole. Have someone to hold the post in the center of the hole.
3. Pour 1/3 of the concrete mix in the hole around the post. Pour about 1/2 gallon of water into the hole and stir the concrete around with the stick.
4. Keep adding concrete mix and stirring in water in until the hole is filled with the concrete mix. Use directions on the package.
5. Cover concrete with dirt from the hole. Pile dirt or rocks around the bottom of the post to keep it in place while the concrete sets.

With regular concrete, the post should be set in 24 hours. With quick-set, it will be ready in an hour.



Make Your Chain Link Fence Higher

Buy a roll of mesh fencing, also called hardware cloth. It is available at stores such as Home Depot and farm supply stores.

Mesh cloth comes in different strengths. Some mesh is thin and easy to bend (like chicken wire) and some is thick and sturdy. Buy some that is strong enough to stay upright at the top of your fence but light enough for you to bend it into place.

Roll out the fencing and attach it to the top of your chain link fence. Attach it with lengths of pre-cut wire ties or pieces of baling wire. Baling wire comes in a roll and you can cut it to the desired length.

Below you can see mesh fencing attached to the top of a fence. The mesh is strong enough to stand upright on its own.



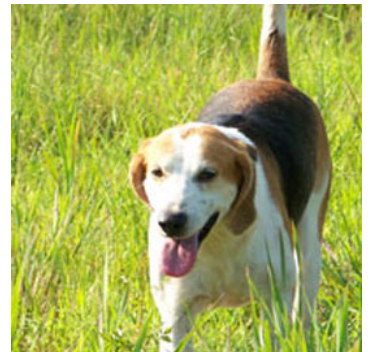
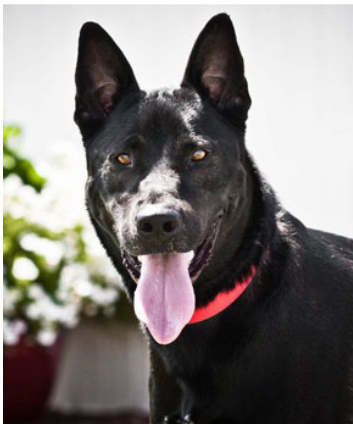
Wire ties were threaded through the mesh, around the pole at the top of the fence, and twisted shut.

This project took just a few hours and it WORKED! The owner had a dog who always jumped the fence. After extending the height of her fence, the dog was no longer able to escape. A success!

If you can't attach wire to the top of your fence, you can install tall T-posts every 6 feet along the fence. Then attach the mesh across the tops of the T-posts. You can hammer the T-posts into the ground with a sledgehammer.

Please visit UnchainYourDog.org and DogsDeserveBetter.org to learn more about how to improve the lives of chained dogs.

Thank you for caring!



These dogs were rescued from chains and are loving life at the Dogs Deserve Better Good Newz Center