

A day in the life of a back yard dog

6:30 a.m.

I can see and hear people moving around in the house but no one comes outside to check on me. They are talking and laughing; I wish I could be with them.

6:30 a.m.

I'm hungry and thirsty. I tipped over my food and water bowls last night when I got tangled in my chain. I'm still tangled in my chain.

6:45 a.m.

The chain is too tight and it's

cutting into my neck.

8:15 a.m.

The people who live in the house are all leaving. I try to run toward them with my tail wagging, hoping they will notice me, but my chain snaps me backward and I fall to the ground. It's no use.

8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I'm not sure what I'm supposed to do with myself. I can't protect the house from my chain. I don't have any toys to play with and there are no other dogs to keep me company. Maybe if I bark, someone will

show me what to do. I decide to bark all day.

2:30 p.m.

A bylaw enforcement officer arrives and posts a notice on the door of the house. He looks pityingly at me. Do I look bad? I know I'm dirty but it's hard to stay clean when I'm always sitting in dirt. I pace in circles and growl at him because I don't know what else to do. I growl at other people passing my yard, too.

3:15 p.m.

The smallest person from the house has returned. Maybe he will play with me! He does not. I go to the bathroom in the same place I always go, a few feet from my shelter.

5:30 p.m.

The rest of the people are home. One of them removes the notice left by the bylaw enforcement officer and yells at me to stop barking. I pace back and forth, confused.

6 p.m.

I smell food in the house. I am still hungry and thirsty.

7 p.m.

One of the people from the house comes out to see me. He fills my food and water bowls and I am so happy for this attention that I jump up in excitement, spilling both bowls and dirtying his clothes. He scolds me and declares that this behaviour of mine is one of the reasons I am not allowed to live in his house with him.

7:30 p.m.

Another lonely night. I dream about being on a chain because it's all I know.

