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**NONPROFIT DELIVERS VALENTINES TO 3061 DOGS
IN ITS 3RD ANNUAL HAVE A HEART FOR CHAINED DOGS WEEK,
FEBRUARY 7-14, 2005**

Dogs Deserve Better, a nonprofit working to bring dogs out of the backyard into the home and family, surpassed its goal of 3000 Valentines for the 2005 Have a Heart for Chained Dogs campaign. The group delivered a total of 3061 Valentines, treats, and brochures to chained and penned dogs nationwide and in Canada. Valentines went to every state in the nation except Alaska, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, and Nevada. Pennsylvania dogs received the most valentines, with a total of 824, followed by Texas with 446, and then North Carolina and Indiana with 203 and 192, respectively.

The campaign served as an education tool and reminder both for those who created Valentines and those who received the Valentines as to the proper way to care for the family dog.

Preparations for the event started in early January, when the group sent a press release and e-mail requesting help from students and other groups to make Valentines for the project. Dogs Deserve Better was thrilled with the outpouring of support this year, receiving a total of 2,444 valentines from 44 different groups and individuals, along with some tremendously touching letters, such as the one from Carrie L. Nutter, of Chicago, Illinois:

Carrie wrote, "I am an occupational therapist with Chicago Public Schools, and I work to help children of various ages with an array of challenges. When I told the children of the project, they were very excited to make Valentine's Day cards for the dogs. Some were so motivated that they actually made multiple cards! By participating in this program, the children felt like they were helping others instead of always being on the receiving end. This helped tremendously to boost their self-esteem."

Of the packages of valentines mailed to Dogs Deserve Better, 29 of the 44 came from school children or groups, 5 from scout troops, 3 from mentally handicapped facilities, 1 from a therapy dog group, and 6 came from individuals, one of whom was Andrew Moskowitz of Florida. Andrew told the organization he made Valentines for the dogs as part of his volunteer work for his Bar Mitzvah.

Valentines came in from 23 states, with the most coming from Florida, where 8 groups or individuals participated. Pennsylvania was a close second with 7, and Georgia and New Jersey were third with 4 groups or individuals participating each. DDB also received valentines from volunteers or groups in Rhode Island, Michigan, Arizona, Wisconsin, Indiana, Maine, Ohio, New York, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, Kansas, Connecticut, West Virginia, Texas, Maryland, Illinois, and California.



13 volunteers helped stuff envelopes with Valentines and treats on February 7th, in Tyrone, PA. 13 Area reps across the country also contributed to the campaign, and fifty or more valentines were delivered by both Heather Carpenter of Orlando, Florida, and Pauline Larson of Iowa. Michele Reynolds, Galveston County Texas rep, put DDB over the finish line with her innovative idea—Michele manages the Galveston County Animal Services, where she offered her Animal Control officers a deal they apparently got very excited about—\$1.00 per chained or penned dog address. She faxed over 375 addresses to the main headquarters, putting the organization over the finish line and bringing the total up to 3,061 Valentines delivered to chained and penned dogs.

So far, as a direct result of the campaign, the organization has provided funding for 3 fences, and has helped rehome or place into foster care 7 dogs. They've also received several reports from concerned citizens that dogs near them are no longer chained in the yard.

A photo synopsis of the event is available for viewing on the website at www.dogsdeservebetter.org.

Dogs Deserve Better, the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector Award, currently has 90 area reps in 30 states as well as two in Canada and one in Australia.

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