



Contact info: Tammy S. Grimes, founder, Dogs Deserve Better.
Phone 1.877.636.1408 • 814.941.7447 • Tammy@dogsdeservebetter.org
P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684

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DOGS DESERVE BETTER SENDS LETTER TO ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA COMMISSIONERS URGING LAWS AGAINST CHAINING DOGS IN WAKE OF 4 YEAR OLD'S DEATH

Death Signals Need to Protect Children, Not Deny Cause of Attack

The Sunday, April 10th attack is the latest in a long line of chained dog attacks, and left 4 year old Robert Shafer of Orange County, Virginia dead and the small community in shaken silence.

Tammy Sneath Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, states, "Robert is the 33rd child in the past 18 months to die or suffer serious injury by chained dogs. Orange County Virginia commissioners are angry that animal advocates are pointing to chaining as the cause—this is not a time to bury one's head in the sand and deny that chaining is a factor in this and other attacks. Not dealing with the cause of this tragedy will only result in further deaths for our nation's children."

Grimes, herself the mother of a five year old, Brynнан, can only imagine the pain the Shafer family is going through. "There is no pain greater than the loss of a child, it's every parent's greatest fear. My heart is with Robert's family, and my number one goal as a parent is to stop this from happening to anyone else's child through education and legislation. We've sent a letter to the Orange County Commissioners asking for better legislation to protect the children as well as the dogs."

After two year old Makayla Sinclair died as a result of chained dogs in October of 2003, Grimes began her crusade to end chaining as much for the children as for the dogs. "Makayla's mother Crystal agreed wholeheartedly that chaining was not the answer for those dogs. She told me, 'It was the absolute truth about those dogs being chained. Chaining dogs makes mean dogs. I hope you can put a stop to this, and I'm going to tell you right now that I will stand behind you.'"

Dogs Deserve Better, an ASPCA Award-Winning organization working to get dogs off chains and into the family, insists that it's time America woke up to the dangers of chaining a dog. Dogs are pack animals, and when left alone, chained, and unsocialized to humans, they often become angry; they can and do take this anger out on the children who are unlucky enough to come too close. The organization urges parents everywhere to socialize your dog with your children, train him/her to be part of the pack, and stand today to change laws where you live to protect all children from this tragedy.

To contact Dogs Deserve Better go to their website at www.dogsdeservebetter.com.