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DOGS DESERVE BETTER REPS INSTRUMENTAL IN CHANGING CHAINING LAWS IN GEORGIA AND FLORIDA

Dekalb County, Georgia and Orange County, Florida Both OK Tethering Limits on July 12, 2005

Dogs Deserve Better announces two more counties have joined the list of approximately 70 areas banning or limiting chaining of dogs for life. Dekalb County, Georgia, and Orange County, Florida both voted July 12th to limit tethering of dogs after extensive work by DDB Reps Heidi Pollyea and Heather Carpenter.

Heidi Pollyea, Dogs Deserve Better rep in Dekalb County, Georgia pushed for three years and brought in numerous experts in her bid to convince county commissioners it was the right thing to do. She was rewarded July 12th with a unanimous vote by her county leaders, which bans an unaccompanied use of stationary tethers. Pollyea says, "This citizen-proposed animal ordinance addition will improve humane conditions as well as decrease animal aggression. Let us rejoice and give thanks for this landmark legislation and hope it spreads to other communities as well."

Heather Carpenter, Dogs Deserve Better rep in Orange County, Florida, elaborated on the Florida legislation, which also passed Tuesday, July 12th: "The Orange County Commissioners voted to enact the proposed Animal Services ordinance with all revision and inclusions. This includes the restriction and partial ban on chaining. Dogs may not be chained outside from 9 am to 5 pm 365 days a year and in conditions of extreme weather. A big THANK YOU to everyone who emailed, wrote and called the commissioners. Commissioner Fernandez told me she received 53 e-mails in favor of the ordinance and only 11 e-mails opposing the ordinance."

Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, stated that the organization is very encouraged by the successes of Pollyea and Carpenter. "Since sending out an announcement about Dekalb and Orange Counties, we've received numerous inquiries from citizens and lawmakers alike in other areas, including the town of Tyrone near me in Pennsylvania. Chaining is an issue who's time has come. We're thrilled with the new laws enacted, and with the efforts of Heidi, Heather, the lawmakers, and all other organizations and volunteers who united with them to make this happen. We're excited about the message this joint success sends to others hoping to do the same. Heidi and Heather have served as wonderful examples of what can be accomplished. Let's continue this push for better legislation! Our dogs, our children, and our communities will be better and safer for it."

Dogs Deserve Better is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA/Chase Pet Protector Award, and is a national and international nonprofit working to bring dogs out of the backyard and into the home and family. For more information on the organization, visit the website at www.dogsdeservebetter.org.