

# BILL MAHER

March 29, 2006

The Honorable Liz Figueroa, Chair  
The Honorable Bill Morrow, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Samuel Aanestad  
The Honorable Dean Florez  
The Honorable Joe Simitian  
Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee  
California Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators:

On behalf of my friends at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the California Animal Association (CAA), I am writing to ask for your support for Senate Bill 1578, a CAA-sponsored bill that would ban the practice of chaining as the primary means of confinement for dogs in the state of California and set a nationwide standard of care for “man’s best friend.”

Life at the end of a chain is miserable. Chained dogs are forced to spend their days and nights, year after year, pacing, sleeping, eating, and eliminating in the same few square feet of the world that they’ve been allotted, reduced by a heavy chain to nothing more than barren dirt.

The chains often get tangled on themselves or on nearby trash and tree roots, preventing the dogs from accessing the barrel, crate, or drafty old house that is *sometimes* provided to them for “shelter.” Frustrated and bored, many dogs attempt to jump fences and end up hanging themselves.

Dog behaviorists agree that there is no fate crueler for dogs than keeping them chained. Dogs are pack animals who crave company and need to be around one another as well as around their guardians. Deprive them of their social needs, and you will have frustrated animals who are understandably highly protective of their tiny territory. At least 53 American children have been killed or injured by chained dogs during the last two years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that chained dogs are nearly three times more likely to attack than those not tethered.

Senate Bill 1578 would give animal control officers a much-needed tool to help protect our canine companions from long-term neglect and our communities from dog attacks, a problem that has engendered increasing public concern in recent years.

Won’t you please consider helping California’s dogs and residents by supporting this life-saving bill? Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached through Lisa Lange, PETA’s vice president of communications, at 323-644-7382, extension 26, or via e-mail at [LisaL@peta.org](mailto:LisaL@peta.org).

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Maher