

# JOAQUIN PHOENIX

June 15, 2006

California Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member:

On behalf of my friends at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the California Animal Association (CAA), and as a California resident, 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 canines.

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 that they've been allotted. Many dogs, desperate to escape, 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. 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,

Joaquin Phoenix

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joaquin Phoenix', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.