

# PATTON OSWALT

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January 7, 2013

The Honorable McKinley Price, Mayor  
The Honorable Herbert Bateman, Vice Mayor  
The Honorable Newport News City Council Members

Dear Mayor Price, Vice Mayor Bateman, and Council Members:

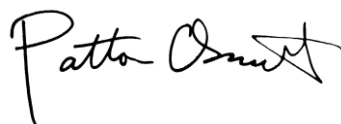
As a Virginia native, I was proud of my hometown of Portsmouth for its recent passage of an ordinance drastically restricting the continuous chaining of dogs. I understand from my friends at PETA that Newport News hasn't yet taken action to address the cruel and dangerous practice of chaining, and I hope you will consider following in the footsteps of Portsmouth and Newport News' neighbor Hampton and enacting a similar ordinance in your community.

There is no worse punishment for a dog than a life sentence at the end of a chain. Forcing man's best friend to exist in the same barren patch 24/7 deprives these highly social pack animals of proper socialization and the opportunity to move around and explore. Often, they are deprived of necessities as basic as being able to reach food, water, or shelter—if they are even given any of those things. Every year, dogs injure or hang themselves on the chains that confine them, while others grow aggressively protective of their tiny spaces. Chained dogs are nearly three times more likely to attack than dogs who are not chained.

Dozens of U.S. jurisdictions have passed anti-tethering laws in response to the public safety and humane concerns. Those in Virginia include Alexandria, Danville, Hampton, Norfolk, Northampton County, Richmond, Smithfield, Virginia Beach, and Portsmouth. Newport News' dogs depend on you to do the right thing—won't you please join these communities in protecting the safety, health, and welfare of human and animal residents by voting to ban chaining?

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached through PETA's Michelle Cho at 323-210-2204 or [MichelleC@peta.org](mailto:MichelleC@peta.org).

Sincerely,



Patton Oswalt