



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2013

Contact: Kelly Peterson
Founder/President of Fences For Fido
Phone: 503-869-0422
Email: info@fencesforfido.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FencesForFido
Web: www.fencesforfido.org

Legislation to restrict dog tethering passes Oregon house

Salem, OR– Fences For Fido (FFF), the Portland-based non-profit organization that has constructed fences to set nearly 600 dogs in Oregon and Southwest Washington free of their tethers and chains, thanks the Oregon House of Representatives for its overwhelming vote for **House Bill 2783 (HB 2783)**. This bill to restrict the chaining and tethering of dogs in Oregon. The bill now moves to the Oregon Senate for approval.

“This bill was the result of a comprehensive process that involved a workgroup of key stakeholders, and three separate sessions before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,” said Kelly Peterson, President of FFF. “We were proud to work alongside groups like the Oregon Animal Control Council, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, [Banfield Pet Hospital](#), [Oregon Humane Society](#), Multnomah and Washington County Animal Services, and [The Humane Society of the United States](#), to compose a new law that would free the chronically chained dogs in our states and help families become more responsible pet owners.”

Peterson also acknowledged Rep. Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), who presided as chair over three separate sessions on the bill, crafted sensible amendments, and carried the bill on the House floor. “Without Rep. Witt’s strong leadership, this bill would have never been possible. He listened to the competing concerns and desires of multiple stakeholders, and worked hard to produce a piece of legislation that is effective and enforceable. We are so grateful that he takes seriously the welfare of man’s best friend, and can always be counted on to represent the humane values of Oregonians.”

HB 2783 would not only improve the lives of dogs suffering on chains, but would also protect public safety, since chained dogs are more likely to bite and 80% of dog-related complaints to law enforcement involved chained dogs.

FFF strongly supports HB 2783, acknowledging that it is not enough to build fences alone, though that remains the group's primary mission. "To be responsive to the needs of our community, we need to dig deeper and uncover the heart of the issue—the problems associated with long-term tethering," said Peterson.

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) warn that chained dogs are 8 times more likely to bite and have more behavioural problems. It is also difficult to provide reliable care to a chained dog, because chains catch on obstacles, which can be dangerous, and dogs can't reach their food, water, or shelter.

It's common for FFF volunteers in the course of their work to encounter chained dogs who desperately jump on people for attention, relentlessly bark, or who become lethargic and depressed. Once unchained, they transform into a different animal completely and are invited into the home.

"While FFF will always be respectful and patient with our families, we must be reflective of the needs of our community," said Peterson. "To that end, we need to elevate the standards of care— move the needle forward—asking our families to search out ways to better meet the needs of their four-legged family members yet not absolving our own responsibility as an organization, to be there for them, providing resources—working in partnership and collaboration."

FFF encourages the Oregon Senate to move swiftly in passing HB 2783 to affirm the need for a solution to the problem of chronically chained and tethered dogs.

In truth, laws are a very important component to solving the overarching problem of chaining, rather than simply plugging holes in the community. The view from the field—in backyards and communities throughout Oregon—is that HB 2783 is a modest, sensible approach.

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About Fences For Fido

Fences For Fido, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3), improves the quality of life for chained dogs living outside in the elements day and night. We attend to all needs by building a fence, removing the chain, supplying a warm dog house, providing critical veterinary care along with spay/neuter, and returning yearly to ensure the dog lives a safe, un-chained life. Additional information, images and video are available at www.FencesForFido.org.