

## TETHERING AND ELECTRIC FENCES

I'm vehemently opposed to these two methods as a way to contain a dog in a yard or ever shocking a dog for any reason. I'm sharing with you opinions about this subject from very knowledgeable and credible sources. I'm also including photos which illustrate the suffering caused by these practices. A few of these photos I took myself. These conditions are very common in the south. A local animal control officer commented that 95% of the cruelty cases he sees involve dogs that are tethered.

### The Humane Society

"Dogs are naturally social beings who need interaction with humans and/or other animals. Intensive confinement or long-term restraint can severely damage their physical and psychological well-being. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained or intensively confined in any way, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive.

It is common for continuously tethered dogs to endure physical ailments as a result of being continuously tethered. Their necks can become raw and sore and their collars can painfully grow into their skin. They are vulnerable to insect bites and parasites and are at high risk of entanglement, strangulation and harassment or attacks by other dogs or people.

Tethered dogs may also suffer from irregular feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care and extreme temperatures. During snow storms, these dogs



often have no access to shelter. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. Owners who chain their dogs are less likely to clean the area of confinement, causing the dogs to eat and sleep in an area contaminated with urine and feces. What's more, because their often neurotic behavior makes them

difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection. Tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.

### How does tethering dogs pose a danger to humans

Tethering is not only bad for dogs—it is a high-risk factor in serious dog bites. Dogs unable to retreat from perceived or real threats can act out aggressively when approached. Dogs tethered for long periods can become highly aggressive. A tied dog, unable to take flight, resorts to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory."

### Aggression and Electric Fences

For some dogs, electrical fencing can lead to aggressive behavior. The frustration of seeing prey objects such as rabbits and squirrels, or stimuli such as kids on bikes or skateboards -- not to mention other dogs walking past -- can lead the dog to charge the fence line and get a shock. The dog then associates the shock with the squirrel or other dog or child, and becomes afraid of or aggressive toward them even when outside of the fence.

1. Some dogs become very aggressive, associating the shock with whatever was passing by at the time: another dog, a skateboarder, a child.
2. Some dogs are so traumatized by the shock that they are terrified to step foot into their own yards.

### DOGS SUFFER BY BEING CHAINED OR SHOCKED



### The Secret Language of Dogs

by Victoria Stilwell  
Recommended book

A wonderful resource!

Continued...

## TETHERING AND ELETRIC FENCES

### CANINE CONNECTION WITH HEART

3. Some dogs are so traumatized by the warning beep associated with the shock that other, similar beeps – such as the beep of a camera, microwave oven, smoke alarm, electronic watch alarm – will send them into a total panic.

4. An electric fence doesn't protect your dog from intruders (other dogs, humans) and hence puts her at risk from them and puts innocent intruders at risk (a child, perhaps) especially if your dog has become aggressive due to the shock association.

5. Some dogs learn how to run through the fence. Some ignore the shock in a moment of high arousal over a passing dog, car, human, or other exciting stimulus.

There is no upside for the dog by using these two methods to contain them. Tethering is very common in the south and electric fences are much more common in the north. I've recently had numerous dog adoption applications where folks are planning on tethering or using an electric fence. If you are considering or presently using one of the methods, *please reconsider*. There is ample credible research that details the harm we cause to our dogs by using these outdated archaic confinement methods.



*Look deep into the heart of a dog and you will find your own.*

Please subscribe to my monthly Newsletter and visit my new website.

To Subscribe Go To...

[www.canineconnectionwithheart.com](http://www.canineconnectionwithheart.com)

Also check out my Video Presentation

Special limited time 20% discount

This presentation's purpose is on nurturing and contributing to the wellbeing of your dog by facilitating a deeper understanding, connection and love that you and your dog share enriching the quality of your lives.

References that may be of interest.

How Dogs Love Us.  
Gregory Berns

The Genius of Dogs  
Brian Hare Vanessa Woods

Chaser  
John W. Pilley

Dog Sense  
John Bradshaw

Dog is Love  
Clive D. L. Wynne