



July 26, 2009

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Central OK Humane Society announces My Life as a Dog Challenge

Eight contestants to live chained to doghouses in Bricktown;

Last person to withstand the elements wins a free CNG vehicle donated by Chesapeake Energy Corp.

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Central Oklahoma Humane Society today announced the My Life as a Dog Challenge contest where eight contestants will be chained to doghouses in Bricktown Sept. 12-19 in an effort to raise awareness of the cruel practice of chaining dogs. The individual who stays in the competition the longest or wins the people’s choice award in the event of a tie, will win a free Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicle donated by Chesapeake Energy Corp.

The Humane Society will be accepting applications July 27- Aug. 21 for those interested in competing in the challenge. Contestants can apply online at www.KJ103fm.com using the keyword “dog”. Morning show hosts TJ and Janet will be interviewing the applicants on air and selecting the final eight contestants. The contestants will be chained to eco-friendly doghouses designed by TAP Architecture and built by donated supplies from Flintco Construction for the duration of the contest.

To simulate the lack of socialization chained dogs receive, the contestants will not be allowed to talk to one another, family or friends during the competition. Contestants will be required to complete two blog entries per day which will be uploaded to the My Life as a Dog Challenge Web site, www.mylifeasadogchallenge.org. The contestants will not be allowed to have any personal belongings with the exception of prescribed medication and will use a portable toilet.

“We are so excited about this event and all the community partners who have stepped up to join us in this effort,” said Christy Counts, president of the Central Oklahoma Humane Society.

“Chaining is not only inhumane, but it’s also a public safety issue that must be resolved.”

Research indicates dogs chained for long periods have a tendency to become highly aggressive. Several attacks on people by chained dogs have been documented. For example, a study published in the Sept. 15, 2000, issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association reported that 17 percent of dogs involved in fatal attacks on humans between 1979 and 1998 were restrained on their owners' properties at the time of the attack.

According to the U.S. Humane Society, more than 100 communities in more than 30 states have passed laws that regulate the practice of chaining animals. Maumelle, Ark. and Tucson, Ariz. have completely banned the chaining of unattended dogs. Several other communities have restricted the amount of time or outlined certain conditions for chaining. For example, Orange County, Fla., does not allow tethering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or during times of extreme weather.

Sponsors of the My Life as a Dog Challenge include: Chesapeake Energy Corp., TAP Architecture, Jordan Associates, KJ103FM Radio, Oklahoma Gazette, the Oklahoma Media Group and Flintco Construction.

The Central Oklahoma Humane Society is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that exists to enrich the communities it serves by promoting the well-being of animals. OK Humane is funded solely by donations, grants, and bequests. For more information, please visit www.okhumane.org.

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