

Wanda Sykes

February 12, 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:

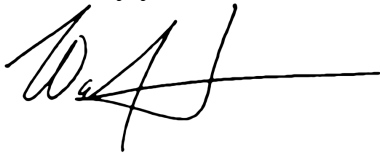
I'm writing today on behalf of my friends at PETA and as a proud Virginia native to support a ban on dog chaining in Newport News. Dogs are wonderful social animals who want little more than the opportunity to curl up in a warm, comfortable place at night and receive a few scratches behind the ears and tummy rubs.

Dogs who are forced to live at the end of a chain—often with inadequate or no shelter at all—suffer from loneliness, frustration, and distress. As a mother, this issue especially troubles me since we should be teaching our children that dogs are members of the family who should be treated with kindness and respect. Studies also show that chained dogs are much more likely to become aggressive and attack people.

I truly hope that Newport News joins dozens of other U.S. jurisdictions—including my hometown of Portsmouth—that have passed anti-chaining laws in response to public safety and animal welfare concerns. Dogs ask for so little yet give us so much. The very least that we can do for them is to pass a law that protects them from the cruelty of being chained their entire lives.

Thank you for your time and attention. I can be reached through PETA's Michelle Cho at 323-210-2204 or MichelleC@peta.org. I look forward to hearing your decision.

Sincerely yours,

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

Wanda Sykes