



Most Common Reasons Owners Give for Chaining or Segregating their Dogs

1. You'll ruin a good hunting dog by keeping it inside

Please note that information researched on this topic was gathered from hunting sites not from animal welfare sites.

There is a general consensus that hunting dogs need to be acclimatized to the specific elements that they need to perform in. The dog needs to spend time outside in hot weather to become conditioned to work in heat and in cold weather to be conditioned to work in the cold. The time spent outside is not in isolation however but is spent in exercising and training. Some keep hunting dogs kenneled outside between training. Training is not seasonal but daily. Hunters differentiate between a hunting dog and a hunting companion. A hunting dog is described as a dog that is kept confined from the family and as a result performs for itself. A hunting companion is described as a dog that socializes inside and outside with the family and has a pack mentality. It works with its pack leader and hunts for its pack. Hunters describe these dogs as easier to train.

Hunters say that puppies should not be kept outside but be kept with you as much as possible. The first year of a dog's life is an important time for social development and for forming strong bonds. A dog that is bonded to its owner will be more eager to please and want to work for him.

Hunting dogs need exercise all year long to perform well and maintain stamina for hunting season. Exercise also toughens the dog's pads to help prevent wear. One site commented that one way to determine that your dog is physically ready for the season is by noticing that its nails are worn short. Many hunters with outdoor dogs say that they don't exercise their dogs because they are not allowed to run them outside of hunting season. Dogs can be still leashed walked, taken to the beach to swim and fetch, or taken to an enclosed area or fenced yard to run or play fetch.

Breeders of hunting dogs and trainers say that they begin to increase the fat and protein in their dog's diet a couple of months before season. High energy dog snacks are taken hunting to keep the dogs energy up for the day. Starving a dog before hunting doesn't enhance its hunting desire but slows it down because its body can't keep up with its desire to hunt.

2. It Grew Too Big for the House

This reason is just another way of saying I can't train my dog.

House dogs aren't defined by size but by manners and good behavior. It's much easier to overlook bad behavior in small dogs. We are much less intimidated when we enter a home and are faced with an out of control barking Shih Tzu than a out of control barking Lab. Smaller dogs, smaller accidents, easier clean up. All dogs no matter size or breed need human companionship.

If you're frustrated and have decided to put your dog outside please consider other options. Obedience training and increased exercise will solve most issues. Pin point behavioral problems

and find solutions. Tying a dog outside will not train it to calm down but will increase anxiety as it tries to reach its family, or passing animals and people it can not reach. Tying a dog outside to house train it is counter productive. The dog has to soil its living area which goes against its natural instincts. If you are not willing to retrain please re-home your dog.

3. I Can't Walk Him

Many owners never exercise their dogs because they claim they are too hard to walk. Research tips for training your dog to walk well on lead. You have to be prepared to work with your dog. Reversing behavior takes time and patience. There are great walking aids available now that don't harm your dog but help prevent him from pulling. The halter is a walking aid that fits around the dog's nose and offers greater steering control. It is sometimes mistaken for a muzzle but unlike a muzzle it allows the dog to pant, drink and chew. Another aid, the walking harness is designed to control pulling by putting pressure on the underarms or on the center of the dog's chest. There will be an adjustment period as your dog gets used to wearing each device.