

A dog named Hooch, educates others upon freeing himself after nearly 10 years of neglect, part 1



Hooch, a large breed dog resembling a mastiff, lab, and bloodhound, horrific life struck a chord within many while witnessing unethical treatment and neglect that was inflicted on him as he was chained outdoors through Upstate New York's blistering winters and blazing summers **with no human contact for nearly 10 years.**

He was emaciated as he was only given minimal food and water. Hooch's tragic beginning exasperated folks from all over as they learned authorities were notified on several occasions about these unjust acts and that New York State laws could not protect Hooch because he had "shelter." **Hooch was left in a somber and lonely world.**

It was not until **Hooch broke the chains that were bound so tightly around his neck that he was able to free himself from his abusers and the horrific outdoor living space he was subjected to live in day in and day out.** After he freed himself he was picked up by animal control officers in Utica New York as a stray and brought in to the **Steven Swan Humane Society** wherein he weighed a horrifying 67lbs.

Within moments Hooch was rescued by **Senior Animal Medical Aid Fund (SAMA)** wherein he blossomed into a warm, loving creature. Rehabilitation for Hooch was continuous. Rehabilitation consisted of incorporating all of life's stimulations- children, creatures, big and small, domestic and livestock into his life. He explored life through nature, swimming, hiking, playing ball, car rides and just simply learning how to relax. His unwavering gentleness earned him the highest of honors while being welcomed as a Hospice Therapy Working Dog. Up and down the halls he strolled to make some laugh, some reminisce, or to welcome others to touch his enormous teddy-bear like body that **eventually weighed in at a whopping 120 lbs.**

He built a fan club as people from all over learned of his tragic beginning and how he freed himself and overcame his challenges to become an instrumental part of the Capital Region community.

Hooch moved forward with zeal. He became instrumental in helping educate learners during humane education workshops. His grand teddy bear like presence memorized and captured his audience while his weathered past helped educate others of all ages on the importance of human empathy and kindness and the importance of their role in the life of an animal.

Hooch's work in the community will always be remembered because of his enduring strength, loyalty, grand presence, and gentle giantess to all those who learned, explored, and grew from his journey.

As Hooch grew increasingly old he welcomed his retirement from community events, but not before he made his final public appearance at **Atria Shaker** an assisted living community wherein he was honored by Atria residents during dog appreciation month in April of 2010.

Hooch was loved and adored by many as his spirit was electrifying, magnetic, gentle, and warm. Hooch's triumphant journey is uplifting, inspirational~ one that redefines heroism, bravery, and stoicism.

However, Hooch paid the ultimate sacrifice for his notoriety. The inward and outward scars from his weathered past were hidden beneath this stoic soul. He faced a multitude of medical illnesses that eventually cost him his life.



Weep not for Hooch, but rather honor him by continuing to educate others through his journey. Educate others that continuous chaining or tethering is inhumane, the harms and dangers of keeping a dog chained alone in one spot for hours, days, months, or even years suffers psychological damage, educate on the importance of fulfilling ones responsibly to companion animals, encourage law makers by writing to your State Legislators to look deeper into the laws that could not protect Hooch, know the FACTS and educate others on the importance of humane and ethical treatment toward animals.

FACT~ Dogs are naturally social beings who thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals.

What is meant by "chaining" or "tethering" dogs?

These terms refer to the practice of fastening a dog to a stationary object or stake, usually in the owner's backyard, as a means of keeping the animal under control. These terms do not refer to the periods when an animal is walked on a leash.