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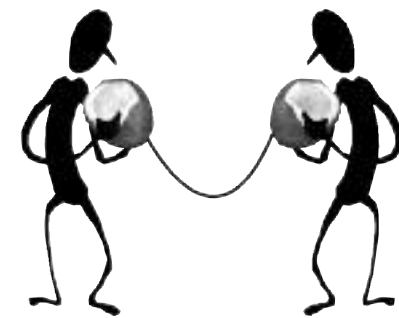
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Editorial: Her Name is Dixie

She is a Chihuahua mix and used to live in a fenced in yard on Buttonwood Avenue in Key Largo Trailer Village. Her owners at the time took little time to care for or about her. She existed outside under a rundown trailer at the end of a seedy street. Dixie's whole world was limited to a chain that kept her imprisoned outside, day after day after day. When the South Florida temperature was ungodly hot Dixie would go as far as her little chain would let her to find shade or a just bit of breeze. Chihuahuas are prone to heat stroke so they should never live outside here in the Keys.

When Dixie's owners would come home late at night, she would rush to them wagging her tail and hoping for just a tiny bit of affection, which she rarely, if ever, received. Animal Control received numerous complaints and visited Dixie's

torture chamber often, leaving warning after warning. But all her unconcerned owners did was put up a "no trespassing" sign.

When it was so hot you could practically cook an egg on the asphalt or so cold that folks bundled up and stayed inside, little Dixie was outside on her chain of torture. She survived through extreme heat, near-freezing temperatures, thunderstorms, tropical storms and even hurricanes. Many dogs have been known to strangle themselves on their own chain or rope, but Dixie managed to stay alive.

One day Dixie disappeared. Her owners told people that someone had stolen her. The truth is Dixie escaped! Animal Control found her wandering the neighborhood, picked her up and took her to the shelter. There they fought to save little Dixie.

The tiny animal was suffering from heartworms and dehydration. Dixie's owners never called Animal Control to look for her. Either they just didn't want the little dog back or didn't want to pay the fee. The good news is that little Dixie survived and was eventually adopted. Finally Dixie has a good home thanks to the caring people at the Upper Keys Animal Coalition.

You are probably thinking that this is a happy ending, well luckily for Dixie it is. Unfortunately Dixie's previous owners have more pets!

Monroe County has an ordinance against this kind of abuse, stating "It is inhumane to chain or tie a dog to a stationary object or confine it in a small place".

Responsible pet owners and caring individuals should report animal abuse or neglect to Animal Control 305-451-0088.

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**Hunk of the Month
Dennis Duran**

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December's Hunk of the Month is proud to now be serving liquor at D-Hookers.

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