

PICK OF THE LITTER



DOG TRAINING

DIGGING

The invariable truth is that dogs that dig, find digging enjoyable for some reason or another.. For some dogs, digging is a natural behavior that is based on hundreds of years of selective breeding. Another reason a dog might dig is because of the dog's natural instinct to "den" in a cool area, and the dirt is much cooler the deeper your dog digs. The third reason a dog might dig is because the behavior is enjoyable as it relieves boredom or stress. The last reason for digging behavior is that it is a great way to escape the confines of the yard. If, even once, a dog digs and escape the yard, a very rewarding habit is in place.

DISCOURAGE DIGGING IN INAPPROPRIATE AREAS

There are three simple and effective ways to discourage digging in inappropriate areas. These solutions provide a deterrent for the behavior that is completely unconnected with you. Therefore, the dog will learn that digging is inappropriate whether you are there to supervise him or not. The first and easiest solution is to fill each of the holes your dog has already dug with his own feces. Cover the feces with a few inches of fresh dirt. You will likely need to repeat this process with six to twelve different holes. When your dog attempts to return to these same holes and dig again, they will be deterred from doing so because of the feces. Second, if your dog tends to use its nose to dig, try mixing a portion of soil with cayenne pepper and place the mixture in each of the holes. Third, as a last resort, pieces of chicken wire or small lava rocks can be placed in each of the holes and covered with a few inches of fresh dirt.

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE AREAS TO DIG

Decide upon a small section of your yard, about four feet by four feet square, where it is allowable for your dog to dig. Portion off this section of the yard with four two by four pieces of wood, which is used to make the section visual to the dog. Place an adequate amount of fresh dirt into this section and do not pack the dirt down. Bury a couple of bones, treats, toys, or anything else your dog would find interesting, just below the surface. With your dog on leash, show them the area and allow them to dig to their hearts content.

RELIEVE BOREDOM

Mental exercise is activity that is provided to teach your dog to use its mind in a constructive manner. To provide mental exercise, give your dog a Kong toy stuffed with canned food mixed with dry food, dog treats or cheese and topped off with a small amount of peanut butter on a daily basis. Stuffed Kongs can also be hidden around the yard and even hung from trees. A buster cube is a product that can be filled with your dogs breakfast or dinner , which is slowly dispensed as your dog rolls the cube. Additionally, plan to spend time every day working on obedience skills and providing physical exercise.

PROVIDE ADEQUATE CONFINEMENT

Puppies should generally not be given full run of the yard without supervision, simply because it provides too many opportunities for the dog to be destructive. Puppies need to be watched closely outdoors to monitor their behavior, and when close supervision is not possible, confinement is the best option. Either use a crate or a small room in the house as confinement, or provide an enclosed kennel run in the yard where your dog can rest