



DIGGING DOGS AT WORK AND PLAY!

DOGS DIG FOR RELEVANT REASONS!

In the wild, wolves dig dens for their pups. Domesticated dogs dig to bury bones, make dens or cooling holes. They like to nuzzle into a “special spot” to sleep, or kick back and take in the vistas and aromas of a delightful day. Sometimes, they dig to relieve stress and other times just for the joy of it! Dogs that are confined for extended periods of time dig need to escape from the Alcatraz of boredom!

Dogs are archeologists by nature searching for fossils and bones (perhaps of ancestors). They dig with a zesty gusto using their exquisitely keen senses to forage out scents. How discouraging it can be if every time they attempt their “dig”, they are reprimanded for making disgusting holes in the lawn. The indignity of it all. These are more than mere holes to the dog!

How would anyone of us like it if every time we gregariously went about preparing a project or presentation for 9-months only to be told: “that’s disgusting, yuck, horrible, no, *get out of here*”?

A SAFE PLACE TO DIG AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT TOO!

A dog’s request is to give them a place to build their “sandcastles” and/or “dream”. Shape the digging! If you are lucky enough to have a puppy at 8-weeks, begin then by showing them where to dig. It is simple as teaching “dig here, not there, “dig for this, not that”.

Make it a game of challenge and quest. Show them their favorite bone or hard rubber toy, then bury it in an acceptable and safe excavation spot. Voila, jackpot!

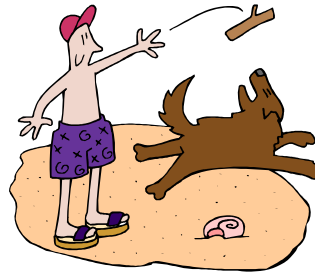
Take a walk with your dog around the yard and pick out an optimum cooling spot that they can build into a den to relax.

Don’t want them in your vegetable or flower garden, and you don’t have the time to teach them where to dig? Then, the answer is simple. Fence it off!

A child’s plastic swimming pool can be filled with dirt. Bury your dog’s favorite toys; make it enticing. Show them how to find it in the pool by pointing the scent out and digging with your hands. They’ll get the idea!

GIVE ME A JOB!

Whether it is catching Frisbees, playing ball, bringing you flowers or fetching the newspaper, dogs were bred to work and need to feel useful. In addition to appropriate digging expeditions, *give them a job to do* in their daily life plan. You have choices and it is worth the effort!



Take a few minutes each day to spend some quality time teaching your dog where to dig, what to fetch, get some healthy exercise for both of you!

Digging is instinctively natural and a stress-reducers for most dogs. You can alleviate many other "undesirable" behaviors lby teaching them what to chew, where to dig and when. Be a good pack leader. Give them a positive, appropriate energy & stress outlet like Dog Sports. Integrate them into your "fun time".

Simple Common Sense and a Deep Breath will go a Long Way ...
Remember ... dogs live in the here and now ...

Don't want your dog chewing the vinyl siding? Then don't tie them near the house. Don't want them digging in the garden? Then fence an area off where they can dig. Don't want them eating garbage? Then, cover it or take the time to teach leave it!

Tired of the don'ts? Then, teach the do's.



DIG THIS!



- ~Awareness~
- ~Education~
- ~Relationship~

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