

Ward's Dog Training Presents:



How to Prevent Digging

Digging holes comes naturally to dogs, but if your yard is full of holes and looks like gophers invaded it, digging has become an undesirable behavior for you and your pet. Your dog could dig under your fence and get out becoming lost or injured.

Why Dogs Dig?

Dogs may get down and dirty because they are in search of a cool spot for a nap, want to bury a bone, they have it bred in them, or they are bored. An unneutered male may dig under a fence to pursue a female in heat, and some females will scratch out primitive nests when they are expecting puppies.

These are normal behaviors and except in the case of a zealous male, they are not usually a problem. Excessive hole digging is almost always out of boredom and anxiety. Your dog may not be getting enough **Physical exercise, Mental exercise, or Communication**. (Refer back to 3 Things a Dog Needs To Live a Satisfied Life document.) Usually it's the lack of Mental Stimulation that results in the dog digging. Eliminating the source of this behavior is the only way to stop the unwanted behavior.

How to Change the Unwanted Behavior

At Ward's Dog Training we believe the best way to prevent your dog from digging is to stop them from acquiring the bad habit in the first place. If you must leave your dog by themselves consider putting them in a crate or dog proofed room instead of allowing them to run loose in your yard or be tied up outside.

Obedience Training is key to improving communication and **“Enhancing You & Your Dogs Lives”** instead of the dog being exiled by itself.

If your dog already has a habit of digging you need to troubleshoot and figure out why they are digging in order to eliminate the behavior. You need to schedule time every day for some sort of training and exercise. Provide your dog with a variety of toys and hide them around the yard for them to discover them. Check the temperature outside if its hot the dog may dig to find a cool spot, make sure

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to have fresh water and shelter (3 sides and a roof) to keep your dog comfortable.

Solutions to Digging

Fill existing holes with feces or pine cones to discourage your dog from digging up the same area again. For breeds that like to dig you can provide a sandbox as a designated area for digging.

Using a remote E-Collar is also an effective way to train your dog not to dig. The collar can be activated from inside the house and as long as you can see the dog. Because the correction is non-directional, your dog will not associate the unpleasant sensation generated by the remote E-Collar with you. As soon as you see your dog begin to dig or scratch at the ground give them a brief correction with the remote E-Collar. ***Never correct your dog after they have done something wrong.*** They have to be caught in the act in order to make the connection between bad behavior and the correction.

We offer the Mini educator series here at Ward's Dog Training. For additional solutions, information about our products & services please visit one of our websites listed below.

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