

Digging

Dogs dig for a multitude of reasons: out of boredom, out of frustration, for entertainment, to hunt, as well as to keep cool!

How to combat unwanted digging:

- Play with your dog using active toys (balls, flying disks) as often as possible.
- Teach your dog a few commands or tricks. Practice these everyday for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Take a training class with your dog and practice what you learn daily.
- Keep interesting toys in the yard to keep your dog busy when you're not around. Kong-type toys filled with treats or busy-box dog toys work especially well. Rotate the toys to keep things interesting.



Teach your dog where to dig

If your dog is a dedicated digger, set aside an area of the yard where it's okay for them to dig, and teach them where that digging spot is:

- Cover the digging zone with loose soil or sand. Or use a child-size sandbox.
- Make the digging zone attractive by burying safe items (such as toys) for your dog to discover.
- When your dog digs in the digging zone, reward them with praise.
- If you catch your dog digging in an unacceptable area, interrupt the behaviour with a loud noise and firmly say, "No dig." Then immediately take them to the digging zone.
- Make the unacceptable digging spots unattractive (at least temporarily) by placing rocks or chicken wire over them.

What not to do

- Never use items that may be harmful to your dog in order to discourage digging.
- Do not punish digging; it's natural and normal.

