

IS YOUR DOGGY DIGGING?

For some dogs, the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

What can you do to keep your dog at home?

WHY AND HOW DO I DEAL WITH IT?

Dogs escape because they are bored. It takes more than a good fence to hold a restless dog—it takes an interesting home life with outlets for mental and physical energy. Keep the toy box interesting by rotating your dog toy supply so different ones appear every few days.

Hormones are a MAJOR cause of escapes. When female dogs are in season, they release a scent that invites intact males to hop the fence. Get rid of hormones by spaying or neutering your pets.

Lack of exercise also leads a dog to search for adventure. Give your dog at least one of the following every day: two one-hour walks; half-hour to one-hour run; one half hour game of fetch; one hour of play with another dog; half-hour to one-hour obedience training.

OTHER HINTS

- Make sure gates and fences are secure.
- Backfill with dog excrement (topped with clean dirt) all holes dug near the fence line. Most dogs won't dig through their own feces.
- Put a strand of electric pet fencing at the top of your fence for jumpers and climbers or at the bottom for diggers.
- For climbers and jumpers, an anti-jump harness allows the dog to walk around freely, but not jump or climb.
- Block your dog's view if action on the other side of the fence is the cause for the escaping.

