

## PUPPY TRAINING

### Why do Dogs Dig?

Dogs dig for a variety of reasons .... instinctive traits, boredom, bury bones, etc., to make a cool pit to lie in or some will even dig to follow the sound of rushing water through pipes.

There are various things that you can try ....

- Putting their feces into the hole and covering them
- Putting in water balloons
- Using Tabasco or Cayenne Pepper etc. to sprinkle on an area you want them to stay away from
- You could tell them to LEAVE IT.

You can also take a passive approach by creating a “digging pit” for the dogs. It is labor intensive (at least initially) but I think it may be of benefit in some circumstances. If you can landscape into your garden an area, perhaps a run (i.e. fenced off but appropriate in size and so he can see out) for the dog which is separate to the rest of the garden, that is like a child’s sandpit and is specifically for him when you go out, may be answer for you. It is suggested a specific toy (or toys) is used for each day of the week e.g. you might bury a Frisbee or a bone on Mondays.... You bury the objects before you go out so there is something new to find.... Take those away on Monday night or Tuesday morning and put in a couple more different things and so on.

First you must observe your dog and try to figure out WHY he is digging. (Digging can be a tension reliever for some dogs.) Next find the solution. If your dog is digging because he is without enough outlets for his



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energy, find ways to give him more exercise and mental stimulation. As the saying goes “A tired dog is a good dog!” If he is bored or lonely, make sure he is treated like a member of the family and not left outside with nothing to do for long periods of time. If he is hot, buy him a kiddie pool or bring him inside. You could even provide him with a sand pit in a shady area, at least in the hottest part of the day; this will increase its appeal.

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