



Dog proof your yard

Dogs are clever animals and some like to look for ways to escape the confines of their yard. The easiest way to stop your dog becoming lost or involved in a dog attack incident in public places is by ensuring that you have secure locked gates and an escape-proof fence that your dog cannot jump, get under or through. Here's some simple tips to help ensure your dog is contained safely in your yard.

Regularly check and maintain fences

Regularly check the fences around your yard to make sure they are secure. A wiggly pup can easily slip through tiny gaps or holes so check it regularly for gaps or broken panels.

Jumpers and climbers

A recommendation of fences of around 1.8 metres high will usually suffice for most jumpers. Another suggestion is to create an inwards lip around the fence, this way the dog won't be able to climb over. Walk around your yard and move away anything close enough to the fence that can be used to climb on, such as garbage cans, playground equipment, benches, chairs, or large rocks.

Council encourages all dog owners to seek professional advice and support when training dogs, and offers free behavioural workshops. Please go to darwin.darwin.nt.gov/greatpets or call the Pet Care Helpline on 89 300 606.

Diggers

Identify if there are any dips in the ground where the fence bottom rests. If there is a dip in the ground, place bricks or a large stone between the fence and the dip in the ground to prevent your dog trying to squeeze underneath. You may also need to use chicken wire or some chain-link fence attached to the base of the fence. A gravel barrier at the base of the fence may also discourage your dog from digging under it

Fence rushers

Block the dogs view using shade cloth, bamboo, weed matting or similar material by attaching it to the existing fence. Blocking the view will also help stop temptations to jump the fence. Planting climbing shrubs, vines or a hedge of dense shrubs inside the fence line also makes it more difficult for them to react to activities outside the yard.

Regularly check and maintain latches

Some dogs will figure out how to open simple gate latches so install spring-loaded self-closing hinges on gates and ensure your gates have latches that can effectively keep the gates closed or add a lock. Chicken wire under the gate may be necessary also if your dog is a digger.

Exercise

Even if you have a well-fenced yard, you should take your dog for a walk every day. The physical and mental exercise helps your dog use up some of their energy and keeps them from being bored and looking to escape.

By making your yard their happy place with shade, toys and plenty of fresh water and attention, your dog will be safe and less interested in finding ways to escape. If you have a dog who consistently escapes get in contact with a professional trainer as your dog might have some behaviour issues like anxiety. Be proactive and help your dog.

