



DIGGING DOGS AT WORK AND PLAY!

DOGS DIG FOR RELEVANT REASONS!

In the wild, wolves dig dens for their pups. Domesticated dogs dig as if pawing for gold. Observing will inform, even a novice dog parent, that dogs are entertained by digging. When they get a chance to dig in appropriate places, they expend energy in positive ways burying bones, making dens or cooling holes. It is their dog given right.

Dogs sniff in Technicolor. They nuzzle in “special spots” to sleep or kick back, taking in the vistas and aromas of a delightful day. This is very meaningful to the dog. Allowing them to dig & sniff releases energy.

Sometimes, they dig to relieve stress and other times just for the simple joy of it! Dogs that are confined for extended periods of time need to dig to escape from boredom.

Dogs are archeologists by nature searching for fossils and bones. They dig with zesty gusto using their exquisite olfactory (keen noses) to forage out scents.

This is important to dogs. It’s a job and reminder for where they can explore next time.

How would anyone of us like it if every time we gregariously went about preparing a project or presentation for 9-months only to be told: “that’s disgusting, yuck, horrible, no, *get out of here*”?

A SAFE PLACE TO Paw-for-Gold AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT TOO!

A dog’s request is to give them a place to build their sandcastles and explore.

SHAPE THE DIGGING

If you are lucky enough to have a puppy at 8-weeks, begin by showing them where to dig. It is as simple as teaching “dig here, not there, dig for this, not that”.

Make it a game of challenge and quest. Show them their favorite bone or hard rubber toy (Kong®), bury it in an acceptable and safe excavation spot. Voila, they find a jackpot!

Take a walk with your dog around the yard and pick out an optimum cooling spot that they can build into a den to relax.

Don’t want them in your vegetable or flower garden, and you don’t have the time to teach them where to dig? The answer is simple.

Fence it off!

A *child’s plastic swimming pool* can be filled with dirt. Bury your dog’s favorite toys; make it enticing. Show them how to find it in the pool by pointing the scent out and digging with your hands. They’ll get the idea!

GIVE ME A JOB!

Whether it is catching Frisbees, playing ball, bringing you flowers, poopsicles or the newspaper, dogs were bred to work and need to feel useful. In addition to appropriate digging expeditions, *give them a job to do* in their daily life plan that is achievable and as individual as the dog.



Take a few minutes each day to spend some quality time teaching your dog where to dig, what to fetch and get some healthy exercise for both of you! Being proactive and preventative will save you, and the dog, heart-ache. It is the foundation of a healthy and respectful relationship.

Digging is instinctively natural and a stress-reducer for most dogs. You can alleviate many "undesirable" behaviors by teaching them what to chew, where to dig and when. Be a good pack leader. Give them a positive, appropriate energy & stress outlet like Dog Sports and Digging. Integrate them into your "fun time".

Common Sense and a Deep Nose-to-Navel Breath will go a Long Way

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Remember ... dogs live in the here and now ... Do NOT reprimand them hours later for human errors (leaving them unsupervised).

Don't want your dog chewing the vinyl siding? Then don't tie them near the house. Don't want them digging in the garden? Then fence an area off where they can dig. Don't want them eating garbage? Then cover it or take the time to teach leave it!

DIG THIS, NOT THAT! *Pawing for Gold!*

*Awareness
Education
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