

Make a Digging Pit For Your Dog

If your dog just loves to dig, you can choose a spot to make their very own digging pit. If you catch your dog digging outside their spot, immediately interrupt them, then bring them right over to the digging pit and encourage them to dig. Praise them for digging there--make it fun!

To get your dog started in your newly designated digging pit, load it with smelly, delicious treats such as liver bits, food, stuffed chews like Kongs, squeaky toys--things that your dog would like to find. At first, make sure you put some close to the surface so that your dog gets the idea, and be ready to let your dog know what you want until they understand, by catching them in the act if they dig outside their area and bringing them right over to the digging place to encourage and reward them for digging.

Put a border around the digging pit (like a wood frame or garden border) to clearly designate the area. In some cases it might be best to keep the digging pit in a specially fenced area just for your dog so that he is not confused about where to dig when let into other areas of the yard. Sand makes a good material for digging – it's inviting to the dog, and doesn't stick in their fur like dirt. Your dog will like it even more if you keep it damp. Be sure to cover it at night to keep cats from using it as a litterbox.



Additional Resources

Please contact our Behavior Team to speak with a skilled behavior specialist.

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