

15 Ways to Make Your Dog Happy!

1. **Bring your dog inside!** Dogs get bored and lonely sitting on the same patch of dirt day after day, year after year. Dogs are social pack animals who want to spend time inside the house with their "pack": you! Also, inside dogs make the very best guard dogs.
2. **Put up a fence.** Fences give dogs freedom and make it easier for you approach your dog, since he won't be jumping at the end of a chain. Fences don't have to cost much if you do some work yourself. You can sink wooden or metal T-posts and attach chicken wire for the cheapest fence (see following pages).

Workers at stores like Home Depot, Tractor Supply, and hardware stores will show you what to buy and give advice. Ask fencing companies if they have leftover materials to donate.

3. **Put up a trolley** if you can't put up a fence. A trolley system is cheap and will give the dog more freedom than a chain (see following pages).
4. **If your dog can escape your fence:**

- Extend fence height by installing tall metal T-posts and attaching mesh fencing to the top of the posts.
- Buy cheap bamboo or reed fencing, which comes in 6-foot rolls, and attach to the existing fence. It's hard for dogs to climb this slick fencing.
- Install an electric fence. At pet and home improvement stores you can buy electric fence kits for both fenced and unfenced yards. Some attach to an existing fence and others are buried underground.
- Install a "hot wire" to the top of your existing fence for \$40-\$50. Call a farm supply or hardware store for advice. Hotwires are commonly used to contain cows and horses. They keep burglars away, too!
- To stop diggers, bury chicken wire one foot below where the fence meets the ground (bend in sharp edges) or put concrete blocks around the bottom of the fence. You can dig a trough under the fence and fill it with concrete (along the whole fence or in "trouble spots").



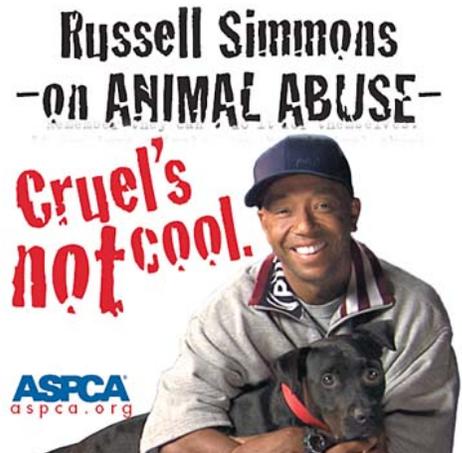
5. **Purchase a lightweight tie-out** if a fence or trolley aren't possible. Attach the tie-out to a strong stake that screws into the ground. Place the stake in a central location so your dog can move around all sides of the stake. The Duckbill Anchor kit is a very strong stake.
6. **Spaying and neutering will help your dog calm down** and stay closer to home. A sterilized dog won't try to escape to find a mate! Sterilization will NOT change your dog's personality! Sterilization is healthy for your dog: it reduces his or her risk of getting certain kinds of cancer.

Investigate low-cost spay/neuter programs in your area. Contact your local humane society or Spay USA at 1-800-248-7729 or www.SpayUsa.org to get a coupon.

7. **Replace tight old collars** with a new nylon collar. You should be able to easily fit two fingers between the dog's neck and the collar. If you need to add a hole, hammer a thick nail through the collar, or heat a pick and poke it through.



8. **Provide food and fresh water EVERY day.** Every day you eat, your dog needs to eat! Put a water bowl in a tire or hole in the ground to keep it from tipping. You can attach a bucket to a wooden doghouse or fence. Stretch wire, a small chain, bungee cord, or twine across the bucket and secure on either side.



9. **Provide good shelter in winter.** You can buy dog igloos pretty cheaply from discount stores, farm supply stores, and hardware stores.



- **Dogs get cold just like we do**, especially short-haired dogs. If it's too cold for you to sleep outside, your dog will probably also be cold. If you can't bring your dog in, fill doghouses with hay or cedar chips to help your dog retain body heat. (Cedar chips are better than hay because they are less likely to rot and don't contain mites.) If you use hay and it gets wet and soggy, spread it out on a sunny day to dry.

To keep cold air out, the door should be covered with a plastic flap. You can use a car mat, a piece of plastic carpet runner, or even a piece of carpet.

- Doghouses should be large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around, but small enough to trap body heat.
- Wooden doghouses should be raised a few inches off of the ground to prevent rotting and keep out rain. Flat concrete blocks are an easy way to raise a doghouse.
- Dogs enjoy having towels and blankets to sleep on, just like we do. Remember to wash every few weeks so they don't get stiff with dirt.

10. **Give toys and rawhides.** Dogs like to play, just like kids do. A big rawhide, which you can get at the grocery, will give your dog several hours of fun. Even a knotted towel or ball can be fun for your dog!

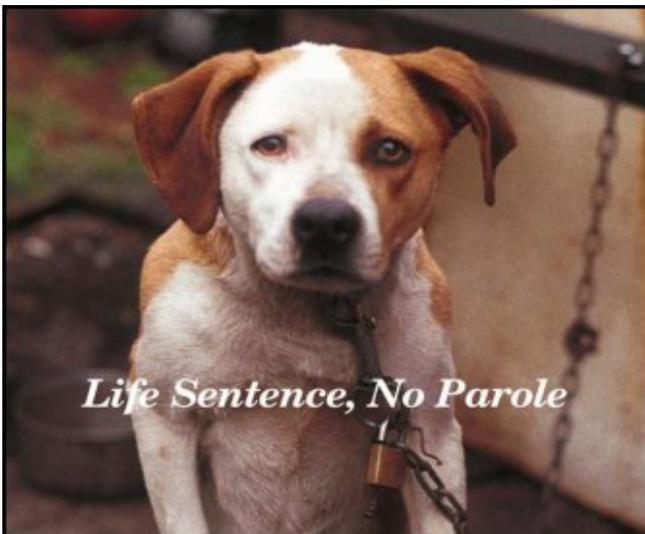


11. **Go on walks!** Your dog will be so happy to get of the yard, see new things, and smell new smells! Walking is great exercise for both of you. If your dog is very strong or large, use a prong collar or harness to make walking easier. Ask pet store workers to fit your dog for a collar or harness.

12. **Go to school.** Obedience classes can help your dog learn to be a good "inside" dog. Most pet stores offer inexpensive dog training classes.

13. **Protect from fleas and worms.** Biting fleas make a dog's life miserable. You can buy flea treatment at grocery, discount, and pet stores. Most farm supply stores sell wormers and vaccinations at much cheaper prices than vets.

14. **Provide shade and a kiddie pool in summer.** A doghouse isn't the same thing as shade. Doghouses get very hot in summer! Bring your dog in during heat waves if possible. Plant trees or create shade by stretching a tarp between two trees.



Dogs enjoy cooling off in a pool as much as we do. What a cheap way for your dog to beat the heat!

15. **Consider finding a new home** for your dog if you can't meet his needs. Talk to your humane society, put an ad in the paper, or ask friends and family. If you can't provide for your dog, finding him a new home is the kindest thing you can do.

Your dog deserves more than being a prisoner in your backyard.

Please consider give him some freedom!

Are Chained Dogs Good Guard Dogs?

Chaining makes dogs aggressive - not protective.

A **protective** dog is used to people and can tell when his family is threatened. Dogs learn to be protective by spending lots of time with people. When your dog loves you, he will want to protect you.

Leaving a dog on a chain is how to raise an **aggressive** dog. Aggressive dogs don't know the difference between friends and enemies, because they are not used to people. Aggressive dogs will attack anyone. They will attack children, a policeman, the meter reader, the mailman, other dogs.

If your aggressive dog attacks someone, you could be sued and forced to pay medical bills. Your dog will probably be put to sleep if he attacks someone, even if the attacks occurs on your property.

Every year chained dogs attack, injure, and kill children.

Visit MothersAgainstDogChaining.org to read more.



A chained dog can't stop an intruder! All he can do is bark.

Do you get up and look every time your dog barks?? Barking is not a good way to protect your house.

Inside dogs provide very good security.

There are news stories all the time about inside dogs that save their families from fires, intruders, and even gas leaks. A robber will think twice about breaking into your home if he hears and sees a dog on the other side of the door. A robber will not think twice about breaking into your home if there is a chained dog in the backyard barking.



K9 police dogs are the best guard dogs, and they live inside with the family.

K9 police officers are with their dogs 24/7. Police dogs become a loved part of the police officer's family. They are not chained in the yard. They are treated with kindness. This kindness makes the dog want to protect the officer.

If you need a burglar alarm, consider an electronic one.

Installation is usually free, and the monthly fee costs about the same amount as feeding and getting vet care for a dog. When your alarm goes off for more than a minute or so, the police will be sent to your home. Better than a barking dog!



Mutts, by Patrick McDonnell

Dog Care and Behavior

Teaching your dog to be a well-behaved member of your family will take time, but will be well-worth it as your dog becomes a loved friend.

Dogs who are used to being chained can make great house dogs, but may need extra training. Be ready for your dog to act excited when first coming in. Don't give up!

Your dog will calm way down once he his used to being inside. He is just excited about being in a new place, with new smells and new things to see.

Dogs are pack animals and want to be part of a pack: you!



TJ used to live on a chain, and is now a great house dog!

Behavior Tips

- **Barking**

Chained dogs often bark out of frustration and loneliness. Just getting your dog off the chain will reduce barking. Some dogs bark more at night. Bringing your dog in at night should stop all barking!

Dogs who are exercised and happy are less likely to bark. Walk your dog and let him get to know the neighborhood so he won't feel threatened by it. A tired, happy dog will sleep instead of bark.

Teach the word "Quiet." After your dog starts barking, startle him with a noise (like calling his name) or by tapping a treat on his nose. When he is silent, say "Quiet" and reward him. Then you can use the command "Quiet" to stop barking.

- **Begging**

Decide at the beginning that no one will feed the dog from the table. Don't allow guests to break this rule. Feed the dog before your meal, and he won't be hungry.

- **Biting**

Every time puppy bites on your finger say, "Ouch". Not the way a person would say it, but the way a puppy would say it...high-pitched and loud! Puppy will think he's hurting you. Then ignore the puppy for a few minutes. Don't grab, squeeze or pop them on the nose.

- **Tearing Stuff Up**

Never leave your new dog alone in the house. You are asking for trouble if you let an untrained dog have full run of the house! A crate is best. Privileges are earned and your new dog must be mature and trained before you give him total freedom.

Give him chew toy and rawhides. Let him get used to being alone so he doesn't chew out of nervousness. Gradually leave him alone for longer periods of time. Leaving and returning should always be low-key.

- **Digging**

Give your dog his own sandbox. Bury toys in it and teach him it's okay to dig in there.

- **Jumping On People**

When your dog jumps on you, back away or turn away. Don't say anything or look her in the eye. Do this every time she jumps. Your dog wants your attention. Only give your dog attention when all four feet are on the floor.

Go online or visit your library for information about dog training and behavior. To find information online, search for specific terms such as: *dog barking, introducing new dog, dog jumping, dog aggression*, etc.

Houstraining Tips

The Golden Rule of Houstraining is...

Never let an un-houstrained dog out of your sight while the dog is inside! Every time a dog relieves himself inside, it teaches him it's OK. An un-houstrained dog should be either:

- (1) Inside, with you watching him
- (2) Outside
- (3) In a crate

If you follow these rules, your dog should be trained in a week or two. Adult dogs can be houstrained, too!

- The best method is the crate training method. Buy a pet carrier or cage big enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in. This will be the dog's "den" and sleeping place.
- Dogs are clean animals and want to keep their home and sleeping area clean. Even young puppies will try their best not to go inside their crate.
- On the dog's first day home, let him wander in and out of the crate. Put a towel and some treats in it. Put the crate close to where the family hangs out, so your dog will feel like part of the family.
- Young puppies must go out many times a day. Young puppies need to go 30 minutes after eating or drinking. Older dogs need to go out four or more times daily.
- Take the dog to the SAME spot outdoors. The smell will remind him why he's there.
- When puppy relieves himself outside, PRAISE him, "Good Dog!!" and give him a treat. Praise is the key to houstraining! Your dog will learn that going outside means treats, and will be eager to go out.
- If you're inside and notice your dog starting to sniff and circle, grab him and take him out. If you catch him in "mid-stream", startle pup with a noise and take him out.
- What if you notice a mess on the floor but didn't see your dog do it? Clean up the mess without fussing at your dog. Dogs live in the moment and won't understand that you are punishing him for something he did in the past. Rubbing your dogs' nose in the mess or hitting him with a newspaper won't work at this point.
- Use a cleaner that will kill smells and bacteria, such as Simple Green (grocery stores), Nature's Miracle (pet stores), or vinegar and water. If you don't clean the spot very well, the smell might make him go there again.
- At bedtime, take your dog outside and then lock him in his crate for the night. He'll make an effort not to foul his bed. Then take him outside first thing in the morning. Some young puppies may not have the muscle control to hold it all night and will have to go out during the night.
- Don't feed your dog after about 6:00 p.m. This will help your dog make it through the night.
- Dogs can be left in a crate 4-6 hours. Dogs should not be left in a crate more than 8 hours. If you can't come home during the day, consider leaving the dog outside.
- Tips: Hang a jingle bell on the door and jingle it when you take your dog out. He will learn to ring the bell when he needs to go out.

Install a dog door. Dog doors are a wonderful invention! Dogs quickly learn to come and go on their own. You can buy dog doors at pet stores and discount stores.



Muttis, by Patrick McDonnell

Installing a Trolley

A trolley isn't the best solution for helping a chained dog!

Please consider building a fence or bringing your dog inside. Dogs need to be able to run free. You wouldn't want to live on a chain, and neither does your dog!

If your dog is a fence-jumper, there are alternatives to chaining your dog.

However, a trolley/dog run is better than a fixed chain. Your dog will be attached by a leash to a line like a clothesline. The leash is attached to the line by a rolling trolley. The dog can run back and forth the length of the line.

You can buy dog runs from Petsmart, Walmart and other pet and discount stores. Trolley kits include easy instructions. You can also buy the individual parts to a trolley (line, trolley, hooks for the posts/trees) at home improvement stores such as Home Depot or Lowe's.

We think the best trolley is: Prestige® Skyline Aerial Dog Run. The attachments are made of metal rather than plastic, so they are stronger and less likely to break.

You can attach a stronger downline (leash) to the trolley for strong dogs. You can replace the downline in the package with the Prestige Beast Tie-Out.



The Easiest Method

The easiest way is to run the trolley between two trees. If you don't have two trees, you can easily sink posts into the ground and run the trolley between the posts. Or you can use a tree and one post.

IMPORTANT!

Put the trolley in a place where your dog won't get tangled up or be able to jump a fence. If your dog jumps over a fence on his leash, he could be hung.

The trolley kit should include "stoppers" you can put anywhere on the line to stop the trolley. If you want the dog to stop four feet from one end of the line, put a stopper four feet from the end of the line. The trolley won't be able to get past the stopper.

You can buy extra stoppers at home improvement stores. Ask for **rope clamps**. Pick the size that works best for the size of your line. If the clamp is too big, it will slide around.



Mutts, by Patrick McDonnell



Maggie lived on a six-foot chain for seven years. You can see how little room she had to move around. Her owner didn't want her loose in the yard.

To keep her from jumping the fence on her trolley, we put a rope clamp on the line a few feet from the fence. This stops the trolley from getting too close to the fence. Now, Maggie has much more room, and RUNS back and forth.

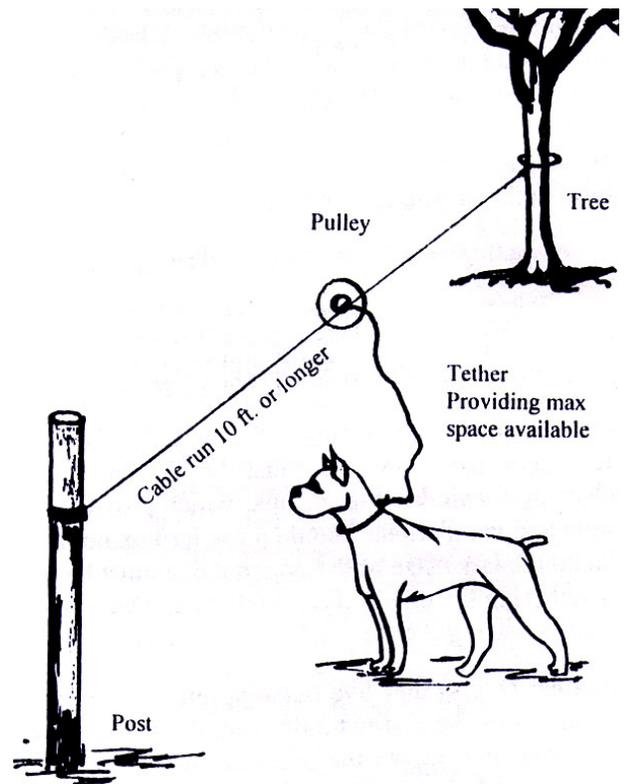
How to Set a Post

Materials:

- Strong wooden post long enough to allow 1.5 feet under ground and 5-7 feet above ground. The post should be tall enough for someone to walk under the trolley line. It needs to be several inches thick so it won't snap.
- 40 lb. bag concrete mix per post. You can use quick-set.
- Stick or dowel
- Water from a bucket or hose
- Shovel or post-hole digger

Instructions:

1. Dig a hole for the post. The post needs to be 1.5 to 2 feet underground.
2. Put a few rocks in the bottom of the hole, then set the post in the hole. It's easiest if you have someone to hold the post in the center of the hole.
3. Pour one-third of the concrete mix in the hole around the post. Pour about half a gallon of water into the hole and stir the concrete around with the stick.
4. Keep adding concrete mix and stirring in water in until the hole is filled with the concrete mix. Use directions on the package.
5. Cover concrete with dirt from the hole. Pile dirt or rocks around the bottom of the post to keep it in place while the concrete sets.
6. With regular concrete, the post should be set in 24 hours. With quick-set, it will be ready in an hour.



How to Build a Mesh Fence

You can buy all materials at farm supply stores such as Tractor Supply Company or stores such as Home Depot.

Supplies

1. **Posts.** Choose metal T-posts or wooden posts. You can get wooden posts cut to specifications. If you tell a store worker the size of your fence, they can tell you many posts you need. Generally, you place posts 7-10 feet apart.
2. **Mesh cloth.** It comes in rolls, in different strengths. Your fence will be stronger if you get a strong mesh (like the welded wire below.)
3. **Baling wire or metal ties** to attach the mesh to the posts. Baling wire comes in a roll and can be cut into pieces. A heavy duty staple gun can be used to attach mesh fencing to wooden posts.
4. **Concrete** if setting wooden posts. Metal T-posts are also stronger if set in concrete. Ask store workers to advise you on how many bags to get for the kind of posts. One 40-lb bag of concrete can be used to set two posts.
5. **Shovel** or post hole digger if setting posts in concrete.



Thin mesh and T-post



Strong mesh fencing

Instructions

- Decide where you want your fence to go. You can push wooden stakes in the ground where you plan to have the corners of your fence, and tie string from stake to stake. You can then place your posts along the string.
- Pound T-posts into the ground with a hammer or set in the ground with concrete. Wooden posts should be set in concrete.
- At least 1.5 feet of the post should be underground. T-posts should be put in the ground until the "V" that extends out from the post is covered.
- The closer you place the posts to each other, the stronger the fence will be. For instance, if the posts were 15 feet apart the fencing would sag in the middle.
- Attach the mesh to T-posts with wire ties or baling wire. Attach the mesh at the top of the post, in the middle of the post, and at the bottom of the post.
- Fencing can be attached to wooden posts with wire or with a heavy-duty staple gun.
- A gate will work best if attached to a post set in concrete. You can purchase gates at home improvement stores. You can also make a gate out of wood and mesh fencing.



The wooden gate is attached to the wood post with a door hinge. A slide lock was added to help keep the fence shut. A bike lock can be used to keep the gate shut.

Make Your Chain Link Fence Higher

Buy a roll of mesh fencing, also called hardware cloth. It is available at stores such as Home Depot and farm supply stores.

Mesh cloth comes in different strengths. Some mesh is very thin and easy to bend (like chicken wire) and some is thick and sturdy. Buy some that is strong enough to stay upright at the top of your fence but light enough for you to bend it into place.

Roll out the fencing and attach it to the top of your chain link fence. You can attach it with lengths of pre-cut wire ties or pieces of baling wire. Baling wire comes in a roll and you can cut it to the desired length.

Below you can see mesh fencing attached to the top of a fence. The mesh is strong enough to stand upright on its own.



Wire ties were threaded through the mesh, around the pole at the top of the fence, and twisted shut.

This project took just a few hours and it WORKED! The owner had a dog who always jumped the fence. After extending the height of her fence, the dog was no longer able to escape. A success!

If you can't attach wire to the top of your fence, you can install tall T-posts every 6 feet along the fence. Then attach the mesh across the tops of the T-posts. You can hammer the T-posts into the ground with a sledgehammer.

Please visit UnchainYourDog.org and DogsDeserveBetter.org to learn more about how to improve the lives of chained dogs.