

Keeping pets safe while they are in your yard



A beautiful yard is a place where families relax, children play, and pets happily explore. For many homeowners, creating a comfortable outdoor space also means making sure it's safe for their four-legged family members. Whether you have a large dog that loves to run or a small companion like a Pomeranian that prefers to explore every corner, a pet-safe yard is essential for keeping them healthy and happy.

One of the first things to consider is fencing. A secure fence prevents pets from wandering into the street or neighboring properties. Even well-trained animals can become distracted by wildlife, other dogs, or interesting scents. For smaller breeds such as Pomeranians, fencing should be carefully checked for gaps or openings. Because they are small and curious, they can sometimes squeeze through spaces that larger dogs would never fit through.

Another important safety consideration is landscaping. Many common yard and garden plants can be toxic to pets if ingested. Plants

such as azaleas, lilies, and certain ornamental shrubs may look beautiful in a garden but can cause serious health problems for dogs and cats. Before planting, it's a good idea to research whether a plant is pet-friendly. Choosing non-toxic plants helps ensure that pets can roam freely without risk.

Mulch is another landscaping element that deserves attention. Cocoa mulch, which is made from cocoa bean shells, has a pleasant chocolate scent but contains compounds that can be harmful to dogs if eaten. Safer alternatives such as pine, cedar, or rubber mulch provide the same decorative benefit without the risk.

Water features like ponds, fountains, or small decorative pools can add charm to a yard, but they should also be designed with pets in mind. Make sure pets can easily exit the water if they accidentally fall in. Shallow edges or small ramps can prevent a dangerous situation, especially for smaller dogs that may not have the strength to climb out.

Lawn care products are another area where caution is important. Fertilizers, weed killers, and insect treatments can contain chemicals that may irritate paws or become harmful if licked. When using these products, follow all safety guidelines and keep pets indoors until the treated area is completely dry and safe.

Finally, remember that shade and fresh water are essential when pets spend time outdoors. Even on mild days, dogs can become overheated while playing. A shaded area under a tree, porch, or canopy gives pets a comfortable place to rest. Fresh water should always be available, especially during warm weather.

A safe yard allows pets to enjoy the outdoors just as much as their owners do. With a few thoughtful choices in fencing, landscaping, and lawn care, homeowners can create a space where both gardens and pets can thrive together.

GREEN'S Furniture Deals & More

WATCH FOR THE MONKEYS...EXPECT GREAT PRICES!

• Delivery Available • Lease To Own and Layaway Available • Credit & Debit Cards Accepted

3495 N. HWY 63, WEST PLAINS 417-255-0520 STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 9:00 AM-5:30 PM



New & Pre-Owned Furniture, Mattresses and Appliances



WWW.GREENSFURNITUREMO.COM

