

Pets and Lawn



Dogs love getting some exercise in the garden or bonding with the two legged members of the household.



Your dog loves to run around and for that you need a hard-wearing, shade tolerant grass that can deal with the kicks and the knocks. Provide your four legged friend with the right kind of turf and he'll guard your property far better than any alarm ever could.

Cats love lawns too, but mainly so they can get out of the house and go up high where they can take an overview of proceedings. They love to sunbake on the lawn in the shade of the house or the garden table. And sometimes they love to run at very high speed across the lawn pursued by the family canine!

LAWN ISSUES & PETS

Fish aren't likely to cause your lawn too many problems, but other popular pets like cats and dogs can raise a few lawn maintenance issues. Wear and tear, digging, urine burn and faeces are common problems — sensitive lawns just can't handle the stress, especially when you have a large dog.

Choosing a pet friendly and tolerant variety however, will make life easy for all concerned. Just like humans, some pets may suffer from allergies so choosing a low-allergenic variety is the best idea all round.

WEAR & TEAR

If your pet continually uses certain tracks causing that area to wear more than others, placing an obstacle like a pot plant on the track will force them to take a different route, giving the lawn a chance to repair itself. This may have to be done more often in winter or shady areas. Extra aeration may be necessary to help rectify any compaction that may have occurred.

DIGGING

If your dog likes digging then a self repairing lawn with a dense growth habit is best. Newly laid lawns need time to establish and are particularly vulnerable to damage so try to prevent your dog from digging and pulling up sections of the turf.

Often digging is a sign of boredom, so a few toys will help to keep them amused while you work on their training program. One good trick is to bury treats in an area where you would prefer your dog to dig as a reward. In extreme cases, with an habitual digger, placing chicken wire over the site prior to laying new turf may be the only answer. This prevents the pet penetrating the soil below the thatch layer. If you have problems with unwanted cats gate crashing your lawn, a quick blast from the hose tends to help them move. They soon get the message.

Various deterrents can be purchased to discourage unwanted animals. It's one thing to try and teach your own pet some manners; a neighbourhood cat or dog can be a real pest and should be dealt with accordingly — while not actually harming the animal of course!