



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

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Love this dogshome

Canine Connections ~ The Canine Escape Artist



A guide to keeping your dog safe and secure.

Why do dogs escape?

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| <p>Why do dogs escape?</p> <p>BOREDOM- many dogs simply do not have enough to do to keep themselves amused. Dogs become lonely and frustrated if they are left alone for long periods, without dog toys or playmates. This is especially true for younger dogs and active working dogs that have lots of energy. Bored dogs escape to have interaction and find fun things to do.</p> | | <p>What's the cure?</p> <p>Provide dogs with regular physical and mental stimulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk your dog at least once a day • Rotate your dog's toys to make them seem new & interesting • Provide food chew toys - Kong type toys filled with food treats • Play with your dog • Teach your dog to fetch a ball • Provide contact with other dogs • Practice commands or tricks daily |
| <p>Why do dogs escape?</p> <p>SEXUAL ROAMING - it can be very difficult to prevent an entire male dog from escaping because his motivation to seek out female dogs is very high.</p> <p>FEARS & PHOBIAS - dogs may escape in response to something he/she is afraid of such as loud noises, fireworks, thunder or machinery.</p> <p>SEPARATION ANXIETY - if your dog has a strong attachment to you, reacts anxiously to your leaving and escapes soon after you leave then this could be a separation anxiety induced problem</p> | | <p>What's the cure?</p> <p>Have your dog desexed</p> <p>Male dogs who roam are more likely to be hit by a car or get stolen or lost.</p> <p>Identify what is frightening your dog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring your dog inside • Provide a 'safe place' for your dog • Put on the radio or TV • Seek medication or other assistance from your vet <p>Find out about desensitisation techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See our brochure on Separation Anxiety. |

How do dogs escape?

Some dogs jump fences, some climb over, others dig under or chew through the fence. Knowing how your dog gets out will help you to modify your yard but until you know why your dog wants to escape and then decrease his motivation for doing so, you won't really resolve the problem.

For jumping/climbing dogs:

Add an extension to your fence that tilts in towards the yard. This doesn't need to make the fence much higher so long as it tilts inwards at about a 45 degree angle. Scatter a few rocks or bricks on the ground where the dog jumps and cover it with chicken wire. Many dogs will be deterred by the uneven surface.

For digging dogs:

Bury chicken wire at the base of the fence (with the sharp edges rolled inward) and place large rocks at the base. By changing the environment the behaviour can change too so maybe redesigning the area into a rockery is the way to go!

Getting the message across to your dog

There is no point in punishing your dog after it is already out of the yard. Dogs associate punishment with what they're doing at the time they are punished, so a reprimand after the escape is too late—it won't eliminate the escaping behaviour and may make your dog afraid to come to you. If your dog is escaping because of separation anxiety and is desperate to get out and find you, then punishing the dog will only make the dog more afraid and make the problem worse.

A deterrent given at the exact moment your dog is escaping may be effective if your dog doesn't associate the deterrent with you. For example, a squirt with a hose or a loud noise as the dog goes over the fence might be unpleasant enough to stop the dog doing it again. If the dog realises that you are the one doing it, then he'll simply wait until you're not around before escaping! Chaining a dog up is not a suitable long-term solution - it doesn't allow sufficient opportunity for exercise, can be dangerous for the dog and doesn't resolve the original problem as to why your dog wants to escape in the first place.

Give your dog less reason to escape and make it more difficult to do so.

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Devonport Dogs' Home

**Spreyton Park Racecourse
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The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.