

Helpful Ways to make your dog happy!



TJ used to live on a chain and became a great house dog!

Would you be happy living on chain your whole life, with no one to talk to and nothing to do? Just as humans enjoy having family & friends, so do dogs!

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. **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. **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.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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!

10. **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.

11. **Go to school.** Obedience classes can help your dog learn to be a good "inside" dog. Most pet stores offer inexpensive dog training classes. **Dog Care and Behavior Teaching** your dog to be a well behaved family member will take time, but will be worth it as your dog becomes a loved friend! Dogs who have been chained can make great house dogs, but will need extra training. **Your "outside" dog will be excited when first coming in. Don't give up!** It will take some time for your dog to calm down and become an indoor family member. For more info, search online for terms such as *stop dog barking*, *dog pulls on leash*, etc. Two good websites: cesarsway.com and aspc.org/pet-care

12. **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.

13. **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!

14. **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.

15. **Barking: Chained dogs bark out of frustration and loneliness.** Just getting your dog off the chain will reduce barking. Dogs who are exercised and happy are less likely to bark and will sleep instead! Try teaching the word "quiet." When your dog barks, after two or three woofs, praise her for sounding the alarm. Then say "quiet"

and give a treat. Most dogs stop barking because they can't eat and bark at the same time. During this quiet time praise her, "Good girl, quiet." Each time she is told "quiet" and succeeds, give a treat.

- **Baths:** You will enjoy spending time with your dog more if she's nice and clean! The easiest way to bathe a dog outside is to tie her to a deck, fence, etc. so she can't escape. You can loop a leash through/around the porch rail, etc. The Rapid Bath system is great - it fits to your hose so the soap and water come out together. When you bathe your dog, throw the collar in the wash to keep it soft and clean.
 - **Begging:** Decide at the beginning that no one will feed the dog from the table. Don't allow guests to break this rule. Feed him before your meal. If he never gets to eat from the table, he won't try!
 - **Chewing/Mouthing:** Dogs need to get used to the feel of human skin, but also need to learn how to be gentle. When the dog nips on you, yank back and say, "Yip". Not the way a person would say it, but the way a puppy would say it...high-pitched and loud! She will think she's hurting you. If this doesn't work, try pulling your hand away and turning totally away from the dog for 5 seconds. Do this every time she chews. She will learn that she gets ignored for chewing on you. Replace whatever she was chewing on with a rawhide or toy and praise her for playing with the toy. A quick spritz in the face with a water spray bottle will also help deter mouthing.
 - **Destroying Things:** 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 trained before having total freedom. Keep chew toys and rawhides handy. A spray bottle with water is a great way to stop bad behavior. When he starts to chew on the furniture or act inappropriately, spritz him in the face with water. Dogs hate this! After a few times you should be able to just hold up the bottle to stop the behavior!
- Digging:** If your dog is digging from boredom, walks and coming inside will redirect his energy. If digging to escape, bury chicken wire along the base of the fence. Dedicated diggers may need a "digging zone" with loose soil or sand. Bury treats there to encourage digging in that area.
- **Jumping:** When your dog jumps on you, quickly bring your knee up and turn away. Don't say anything or look her in the eye. Your dog wants your attention and will take negative attention as well as positive attention. Only give your dog attention when all four feet are on the floor, or preferably when she is sitting. Leaving and returning should be low-key. If you come home and greet your dog loudly, excited, and full of energy, your dog will be excited, too. Stay calm and encourage calm behavior before giving out treats and attention.
 - **Leash Training:** Start with short walks, and don't get discouraged if it takes awhile for walks to become easy! I think a prong collar with retractable leash works best for large, strong dogs. Prong collars look fierce, but they don't hurt the dog if used right. Harnesses can also work well. Have him sit while being leashed. Keep the leash short and go at a pretty fast pace to keep him moving. Take some small treats or a cut-up hot dog and offer them close to your side to encourage him to stay near you. When he pulls, stop walking and pull him close to your leg. Holding onto the prong collar lead, slowly start walking again. Stop and bring him close every time he pulls. Let the leash out longer when he is walking easily. He will learn he gets more freedom when walking correctly.

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 crate training. Get 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, 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 housetraining!** 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 / hardware 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

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 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. 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.

