



Welcome to Day Six of the SitStayFetch 6 Day Course

Dealing with Your Dog's Digging

When you come home to find holes all over your lawn, and you have a dog, there may be a correlation there. But don't bother trying to confront your dog after the fact. Punishment after the fact is widely known as the least effective and potentially most damaging form of dog training on earth. Even if you bring your dog to the spot, hold them by the scruff of the neck, and scold them while you direct their head deep into their handiwork, they won't have any idea what all the fuss is about.



Instead, take a deep breath, and complete your after work wind-down routine. Then, calmly return to the back yard to locate your dog, with the intention of asking a few questions about their habit of excavating your property.

Question One

If you are unable to locate your dog, AND the holes in your lawn are all found right along the bottom of your fence line, then you may not need to ask the first question, which is, "Are you trying to escape?" If your pet is not "fixed" (neutered or spayed), then they may be entertaining their roaming instinct. They will return, and they may even bring a whole family with them when they do.

Question Two

Another possibility is that your dog is digging to freedom in an attempt to find you. If your dog is near or even somewhere on your property when you return from a period of absence, they may in fact have separation anxiety issues, which you'll have to treat directly. Once you do, the digging will be an afterthought.

Question Three

If your dog is there, your next question to ask is, "Are you getting too hot back here when I'm away?" We all know that dogs pant when it's hot. But they also like to burrow, especially when there is not a spot of shade in sight. So you'll need to rule this out as motivating factor for your dog's digging, and make sure they have a place to stay cool.

Lastly, you'll have to ask your dog, "Are you burying your stuff?" This is simply an old habit that stems from the fact that their ancestors often killed more than they could eat in a sitting. This habit may be tough to break, but try changing the range of treats you leave with your dog when away. For instance, a massive juicy bone may be a great treat for your dog when you're around, but might be something you don't leave with them when you're gone.

You may have to change the dog's access areas, or fence off an area that you'd like to keep for the kid's soccer pitch. You can also try setting up a dirt area or sandbox where digging is allowed and encouraged. Many dogs are wild about sand, and you can even attract them to the area by burying treats in the sandbox. I've seen this work well.

In the grand scheme of dog obedience problems, however, this should be more of a nuisance than anything. Often I remind dog owners that it's more than likely their grass will forgive the dog, and that having a healthy and happy pet sometimes comes with the sacrifice of a perfect lawn.

With that said, we've reached the perfect conclusion to the SitStayFetch 6 Day course. That's all we're willing to cough up by way of a free samples, but we do hope it felt much more like a big fat 6 six course meal than a just a "sample." And we do hope you will take a closer look at what Kingdom of Pets has to offer for dog care and obedience training resources, which is really nothing short of a comprehensive multi-media dog training library!

In the meantime, don't forget about our Special Offer for Subscribers to the SitStayFetch 6 Day Course, which you'll find at:

http://www.kingdomofpets.com/dogobediencetraining/6day_special.php

All the very best with your dog training,



Daniel Stevens
SitStayFetch

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P.S. Did you know that we've got a Special Offer for Subscribers to the SitStayFetch 6 Day Course? (That's you). Check it out at:

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P.P.S. Here's what some of our customers have said about SitStayFetch...

Success Story: Carla J. Johnson

Gained Control Over Dog's Aggression

"Daniel,
SitStayFetch has helped us bond with and train our challenging beagle-terrier mix. We got Watson from a rescue organization that knew very little about him because he was so undernourished. As his health improved under our care, many behavior problems surfaced including biting, digging inside and out, barking, and jumping on people. SitStayFetch taught us so much about the psyche of a dog. Especially important for us was to learn about

the Alpha dog. Once we got our family order rearranged how we wanted it, living together has become much more pleasant. Advanced training has been a joy for all of us. Thanks."
--Amy Schaum (Ohio, USA)



P.P.P.S. About SitStayFetch...

With over 25,743 customers (and counting), SitStayFetch: Dog Training to Stop Your Dog's Behavior Problems is the premier product of Kingdom of Pets. This comprehensive guide is written by renowned dog trainer Daniel Stevens, who currently heads the Kingdom of Pets dog training and obedience team.

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