

## **Is Your Backyard Endangering Your Dog's Life?**

Even in a secluded, fenced backyard, your dog's life could be in danger. Many pet owners are unaware of the hidden dangers in their own backyard that could harm, threaten, or even take the life of your four-legged friend.

A backyard that appears to be a dog's oasis can still be full of all sorts of dangers, especially for rambunctious puppies. Puppies are energetic and tend to explore everything they encounter. Their natural urge to chew can be deadly in a dangerous backyard.

The most common age for dogs to fall victim to harmful backyard dangers is between the ages of one and six months. Some breeds of dogs, like Golden Retrievers, have a tendency to chew and gnaw all throughout their lives.

What Are Backyard Dangers for Dogs? To protect your dog, it is best to eliminate all dangers in your backyard regardless of your dog's age or breed. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, ASPCA, the most common backyard dangers to watch out for are:

- \* Citronella candles that repel mosquitoes and contain chemicals that could poison your dog
- \* Mulching around trees, plants, and shrubs that contains cocoa
- \* Compost bins and garden or grass fertilizers
- \* Traps designed to catch snails or slugs and contain metaldehyde
- \* Fish ponds or decorative fountains that contain blue-green algae
- \* Insects, toads, snakes, and other animals that may leave behind harmful toxins
- \* Chemicals and supplies for swimming pools or hot tubs
- \* Azaleas, grape vines, sago palms, and other plants that are known to be poisonous
- \* Fly repellents and traps with metonym

Dog owners must play an active role in protecting their puppy from these dangers, as well as other common perils, both inside and outside of their home. Keep chemicals, lawn equipment, and gardening

supplies secured and out of your dog's reach. Make sure garbage cans and other containers are closed tightly at all times.

Always use fertilizers, pesticides, and other harmful agents exactly as instructed and heed any safety warnings on the labels. There are many organic and natural products that can be used in the place of hazardous chemicals for complete canine safety. Your vet or landscaper may be able to recommend quality products.