

# Dog Environment

All dogs need to be able to get outside or have access to an appropriate area to go to the toilet multiple times per day. Can you imagine only being able to go to the toilet on someone else's schedule? That's the reality for our dogs as we control everything about their environment and their routines.







## Get to know your dog's habits and needs

Some dogs will not take themselves outside to toilet or prefer not to toilet in their own garden or yard, if it is raining, etc. and will need structured outings. Some dogs may not like going to the toilet in certain areas or on certain types of ground, like artificial grass or concrete.

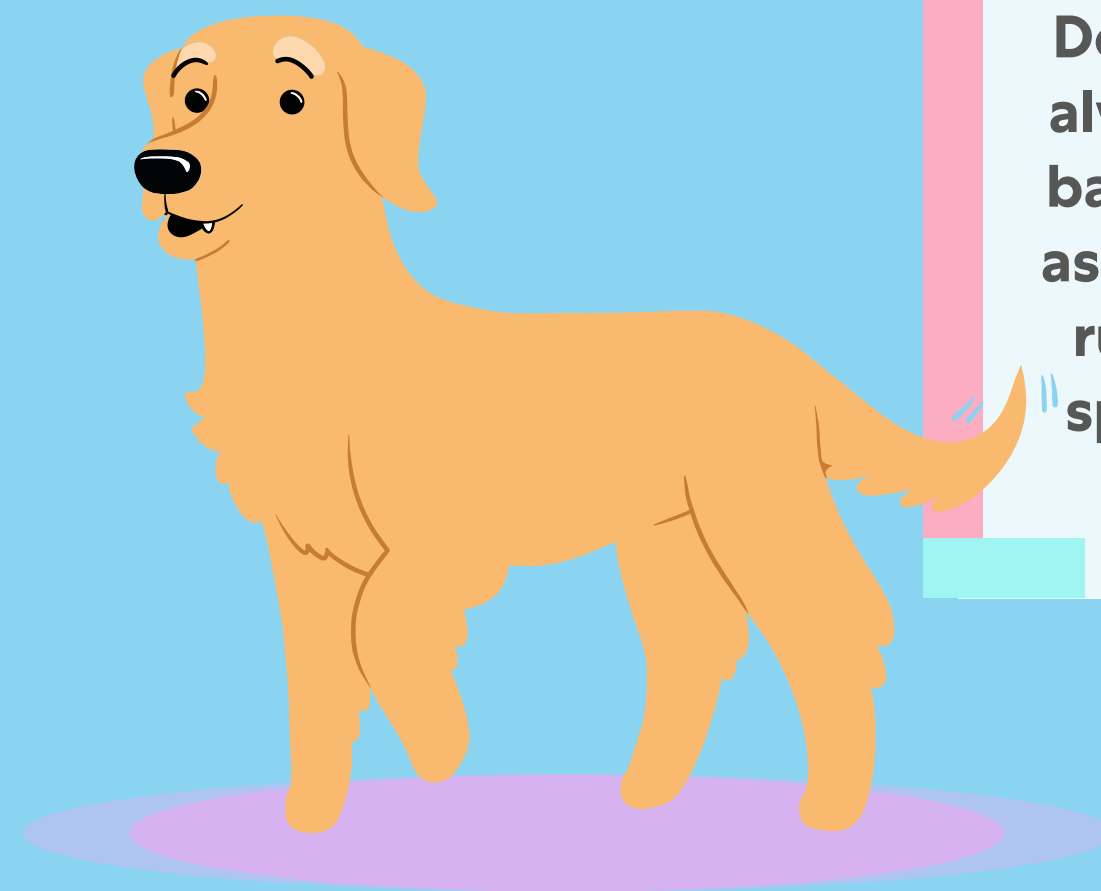
Older or younger dogs or those with specific medical conditions may need to go to the toilet more frequently. Some dogs may need specific training around toileting. Become aware of your dog's natural routine and how they indicate that they need to urinate or defecate. This will help you make sure they are never anxious about needing to go to the toilet, which is crucial to enhancing their emotional wellbeing.





## Outdoor Dogs

If your dog is exposed to temperature extremes, including heavy rain, dust storms, wind, or snow, they are at risk of developing medical problems. These include hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature) or heat-stroke (illness associated with elevated body temperature) but also having reduced quality of life and emotional wellbeing. The weather also impacts other existing physical health conditions such as arthritis or respiratory problems.



**Dogs that live outdoors should always have access to the same basic resources as indoor dogs, as well as an enclosed kennel or run that can be used as a safe space and for protection from the weather**





## Dog Coat Types

When thinking about the physical, mental and emotional requirements of an outdoor dog, or a dog that spends considerable time outside, remember that dogs of different sizes and coat types cope differently with fluctuations in temperature. For instance, a small, short-haired Whippet may not cope well in severe, winter temperatures outdoors, whereas a large, thick-haired Newfoundland is likely to be better equipped in these sorts of conditions (see [Individuality](#)). Different dogs will also have varying preferences for their external environment. Some dogs enjoy a windy day, whereas others will choose to stay out of the wind.







# Top Tips

## Top tips for keeping your dog comfortable outdoors:

- Paddling pools, ice blocks, and cooling mats can be used to keep your dog cool in hot weather
- In cold weather, well-fitted dog coats, blankets, and heated kennels or beds can help keep them warm
- Ensure your dog always has access to a safe, well-insulated and protected kennel or run
- If you are concerned your dog is too hot or cold outside, it is safest to bring them indoors
- Get to know your dog's individual preferences and behaviour so you can tailor their environment to meet their needs. Dogs that are more sensitive to heat may seek shade and pant heavily
- Ensure your dog is microchipped, registered with a database and your details are up to date. This helps reuniting you with your pet if they happen to escape from your property



## Considerations when pending time outdoors

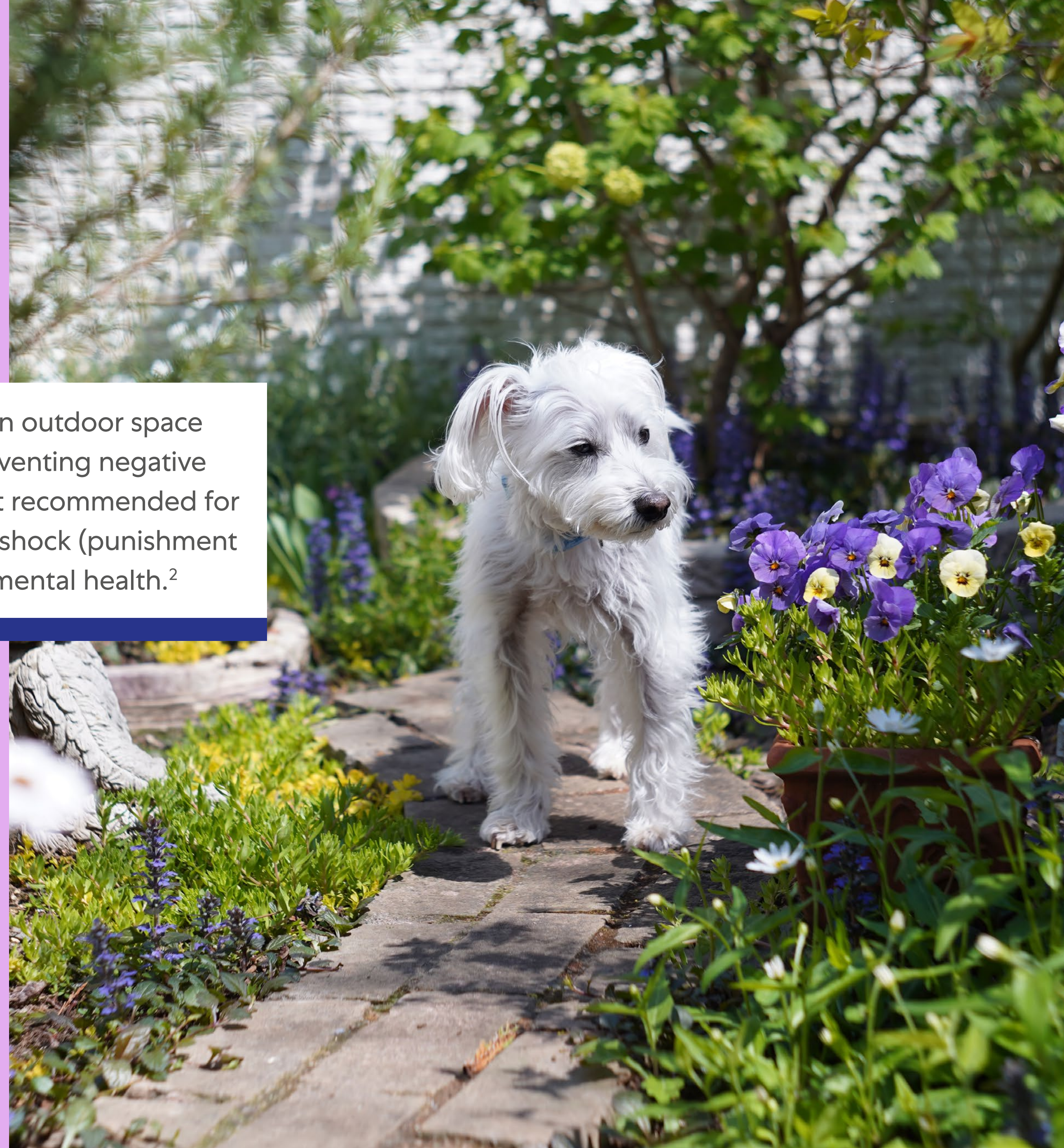
Regardless of how much time your dog spends outdoors, they must be kept safe and secure either with a fence or under close supervision.

Fencing is non-negotiable for any time spent unsupervised in an outdoor space to protect your dog from escaping, injuring themselves and preventing negative interactions with other animals or people. Electronic fences are not recommended for dogs, as they are more likely to escape<sup>1</sup>, plus the use of an electric shock (punishment or aversive training) can be detrimental to both physical and mental health.<sup>2</sup>

Depending on the type of fence, your dog may be completely obstructed from view when people and other dogs walk by, or they may be able to interact through the fence. Dogs that are less social and do not enjoy frequent interactions with strangers may feel less anxious in an outdoor space where they are hidden from view. Considering their individual needs and preferences is key to creating an environment that better nurtures emotional wellbeing.

<sup>1</sup>Starinsky, NS, Lord, LK & Herron, ME, 2017 escape rates and biting histories of dogs confined to their owner's property through the use of various containment methods, J Am Vet Med Assoc, Vol 250(3), pp: 297-302

<sup>2</sup>Ziv, G, 2017, The effects of using aversive training methods in dogs – a review, Journal of Veterinary Behavior, Vol 19, pp: 50-60







## Pet Identification

It's also important that all dogs are microchipped and registered to the correct database. If your dog was to ever go missing, they can be identified via their microchip and returned safely to you.

This is especially important for dogs that spend time outside. In some countries it is a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped and their details kept up to date on a database.



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