

How to Build a Dog House



HOW TO BUILD A DOG HOUSE

Providing Comfort for Your Outdoorsy Dog

INTRODUCTION

There's no question that everybody needs a place of his/her own, and canines are not any exception. The value of your dog having a comfy quality dog house can't be overestimated. Defense against weather and elements assist to prolong and boost the quality of life for outdoor dogs. Thus, if you wish to provide your dog with the care he deserves, a superb dog house is the proper way to make your dog comfortable in any weather conditions.

A number of dog owners are handy with a hammer and saw and they can construct a pet shelter for their dogs based on dog house plans or specs. Other people can buy ready-made dog houses or order to build one to their pet's needs and their own inclinations.

The style of the dog house should feature comfort and ease for your dog in both the extreme cold, and hot weather. A dog house must be strong, long lasting, well-built and structurally sound to give your canine friend the most security in any conditions and to provide the best outdoor protection available. Insulated dog houses keep your dogs warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

And it's very important to pick the right size of house for your dog.

Not surprising, there have been a huge selection of different dog house styles year after year, and some of them being real artworks. The key goal though is to give the comfortable and safe place for your dog and care for his well-being and health.

CHAPTER ONE

Why Your Dog Needs a Dog House?

Having a pet at home has through the years become a tradition. People love having pets and most people keep their pets around the home environment. You can find a number of different studies and pieces of research that have revealed that the most common pet is a dog. . If you're planning to have a pet dog it is vital that he has a dog house and this is a part of the essential care of a pet dog.

Every animal has fundamental needs and one of these basics is a house. People prefer to keep their dogs within their own residence however it is important to remember that dogs have feeling too, therefore it is critical that the dog has its own house either in the yard or within the owners home. Animals enjoy having a place where they can escape from everything, sleep and eat and this is one good reason why a dog house is necessary.

It's an excellent idea to give your dog a house that's the correct size and this varies with regards to the size of the individual dog. It is very important to ensure that you get a house that is suited to your own dog as all dogs are unique just like humans.

Ahead of either making or buying a dog house it is vital to measure your dog to find out what size he is. It's likewise important to make sure that the house that you build for your dog provides the proper degree of ventilation and that the air flow is at floor level. Additionally it is essential that the house is constructed so that it's effective in keeping the dog warm during the winter months.

A dog house, regarded in British English as a kennel, is a small shed commonly constructed in the shape of a little house designed for a dog. It's a structure in which a dog is kept or can run into for shelter from the elements.

Varieties of Dog Houses

To several people, the term "dog house" refers back to the classic "Snoopy" -- a house with a peaked roof structure plus a curved entrance centered on one end of the house.

But when you start searching, you promptly understand that dog houses are available in a variety of shapes and styles and are made out of a number of materials including wood, plastic, aluminum, and steel.

Dog houses also deviate by their intended use. Some houses are created to sit fixed in your yard. This is exactly what most people consider to be a true dog house. Even so, there are also transportable dog houses. This group includes dog boxes, dog tents, crates, and numerous types of carriers. You may consider these as temporary dog homes.

To assist you understand things, listed here is an introduction to the most typical types of dog houses available on the market. But first, a brief information in regards to the term 'kennel'.

Kennel, nowadays, have become an overused term. You'll regularly come across the term 'kennel' when researching dog houses. If you look up its definition, there are two basic definitions, one common and one more precise: the former, any type of a dog shelter; and the latter, a place where canines are bred, trained, and boarded. It appears as if marketers have liberally used the first definition of kennel in order for the word now identifies a broad range of pet containment items like pet carriers, crates, exercise pens and good old fashioned outdoor dog houses.

So, when you see the term 'kennel' utilized for a number of the items explained here, don't get too stuck on the terminology. Just think dog refuge or dog container.

Stationary or Fixed Dog House

Wood Dog House

Wood has customarily been the material preferred for constructing dog houses and it's still very popular these days. Some factors behind wood's good reputation are that the material is abundant, comparatively cheap, easy to work with, and it simply just looks

nice, especially when correctly maintained. The best wooden dog houses are constructed from decay resistant woods like cedar and redwood.

If wood dog houses are to be grouped according to roof structure, you will find three basic styles:



Pitched Roof

This is the traditional Snoopy peaked roof created by two tilted panels joined at the center of the house. The most popular and attractive design that makes a house similar to a miniature version of a human home.

These aren't likely to turn out to be family heirlooms however they are good enough to supply basic shelter for your dog. For those who are buying, an extra \$60 or so, you will get an insulation kit for many of these houses -- a good suggestion if you reside in an area with cold winters and hot summers.

- A-Frame Dog House - If you're handy with tools and wood, this house offers a great base platform from which to build a custom dog house. For instance, you can add an asphalt or steel roof, stick in a window with window shutters, maybe a sun deck at the front, a name tag over the doorway, cedar siding, and so on and so forth. It's basically the platform for so many possibilities.
- Deluxe A-Frame Dog House - This design is a bit spiffier than the basic dog house. It's usually created from 3/8 inch thick exterior grade groove styled plywood

completed with a golden stain. The door frame and roof line are coated forest green for a nice contrast.

Screened vents in both the front and back offer cross ventilation through the house. The doorway features a solid wood frame and plastic masking that will keep your dog safe from undesirable weather conditions.

- Ware Ultimate A-Frame Dog House - Getting a tad fancier, the Ware Ultimate A-Frame house incorporates a waterproof shingle roof, changeable waterproof Feet, a Peak-roof design, and solid wood construction. For sale in multiple sizes and easy to put together in just minutes with just a screwdriver, this house will conveniently fit your dog needs. The A-Frame Package is additionally provided with a zip in and out dog house insulating material kit which guarantees maximum protection and comfort. The quality canvas material is created for simple and easy installation, removal and storage.

A patio portion can also be available for this dog house. It offers a comfortable elevated resting spot which keeps your pet cool in the summer and off the cold and wet ground in the winter months.

Single Panel Flat Roof

An easier design that includes a single flat panel that usually has a gentle tilt going from the front to the back of the house. Many dogs enjoy lounging on top of houses with such a roof.

- Ware Economy Dog House - Crafted from 1/2" thick exterior grade plywood, this box style dog kennel comes with an off-center entrance to protect your pup from the elements. The hinged roof allows quick access for cleaning and mat replacing while doubling as a ready-made sun deck for your dog. The raised floor provides defense against moisture and makes for a warmer abode during the winter time.

Sizes are available for all breeds of dogs. This dog house has a non-toxic weather defensive red stain and is very easy to assemble with basic hand tools. An identical door is available.

This model is a bit beefier compared to economy kennel. But you'll still wish to protect the plywood roof with a more water repellent cover and stain the walls a little darker to help make the inevitable mud less apparent.

Loft Roof

A number of the fancier houses have a loft or sun deck above the house. In some instances, the loft is created above a standard pitched or slanted roof. Some loft roof dog houses appear to be they would make good play houses for kids.

- Pet Palace - It's a loft bed, it's a playhouse, it's a conversation piece, it's a furniture piece, and this type of dog house is all that plus a dog house. The signature feature of this solid fir house with a dark cedar patina is a beautiful lattice roof top balcony to permit your pooch a resting place in addition to a "look out" loft (to keep an eye on the rest of the family).

Plastic Dog House

Plastic dog houses have come on strong in recent times. They're competitively priced, light-weight, and low maintenance. Some are ready to go right out of the box; others need snapping together a few panels. No fuss, that's the value proposal. Many of the most well-liked plastic dog house styles are named the igloo, the barn (gambrel roof), and the traditional dog house with a pitched roof.

Regardless of what the sales materials may say about the virtues of "structural foam construction with nitrogen insulation", a correctly insulated wooden house will normally keep a dog cooler in the summertime and warmer in the wintertime than a plastic one will. Take this into account if you reside in an area with hot or cold weather extremes.

Metal Dog House

You do not see them frequently but there are metal dog houses available on the market. These are generally rectangle shaped, made from stainless steel or aluminum, and intensely insulated. They're relatively indestructible because dogs can't chew apart the

metal and they won't rot. They are not for every dog though -- you will mostly see these sold by suppliers specializing in hunting dog supplies.

A distinction is made here between metal dog houses and metal dog boxes. Metal dog houses in many cases are created for stationary use as opposed to a dog box is usually designed for mobile use. One is located in your yard, the other goes into your truck.

Barrel Dog House

Just about in a class by itself is the barrel dog house. These may be made from old wooden wine barrels, plastic barrels, or metal barrels. The concept behind this design is that dogs naturally choose to sleep in shallow, curved holes and so a barrel - layered with lots of wood chips - enables you to emulate this habitat.

Fiberglass Cave Dog House

Just when you think you've seen it all, this fiberglass cave dog house shows up. This dog house is made of 100% heavy-duty fiberglass that should in no way rot or leak and is built to hold two large dogs comfortably. This look may not attract everyone but it sure results in a distinctive home for your pet.

Portable and Temporary Dog House

Dog Tents

A dog tent is a soft-sided transportable shelter. Made from water-resistant materials, most dog tents are simple to put together and break down in minutes. They are lightweight and simple to transport making them popular for camping, traveling, and other outdoor pursuits. Some dog tents are fairly intricate, sporting features like ventilated side panels, elevated floors, hold open door flaps, and zippered closures. Dog tents aren't for diggers, chewers, aggressive dogs or canines that experience anxiety while contained.

Soft Dog Crate

A soft dog crate is essentially a rectangular dog tent. It looks like a regular dog crate with the exception that it is soft-sided with nylon mesh rather than metal or plastic grating. A

soft dog crate is also lighter than the usual conventional crate which makes it far more convenient for transporting a dog. Nonetheless, soft crates aren't ideal for diggers, chewers, aggressive dogs or dogs that freak out while crated.

Inflatable Dog House

This dog house is created from materials normally used for high end outdoor camping and sporting gear. The known manufacturer of this dog house boasts that it provides ten times the insulating qualities of plastic dog houses, making it a practical temporary shelter for cold weather scenarios. If your dog is a chewer, this isn't really the best dog house for him.

CHAPTER TWO

Shopping Guidelines for a Dog House

As a dog parent you are faced with a variety of choices when shopping for a dog house. A few of the big decisions you have to make are:

- The amount to shell out
- How small or big the house to get
- What style or type of house

But there are various other supplementary questions to be addressed:

- Are you interested in wood, plastic, or metal? If you choose for wood, do you prefer a peaked or flat roof? Centered or off-set doorway? Painted or coated? And so on and so forth.
- What's the best way to heat?
- Will your dog love it?

Don't be overwhelmed though. With proper research and consideration for what your dog really needs (and not what you really want), you'll get there without even a headache.

So, What Now? Plastic, Wood, or Metal?

A fundamental decision to be made at the start is whether to obtain a plastic, a wood, or a metal dog house. Let's start with the plastic. Dog houses constructed from plastic are often lighter and more affordable than wood ones. They're very easy to transport, lack splinters, don't decay, and don't need refinishing. They are also easy to clean and don't have tiny holes for fleas and ticks to produce nests.

Alternatively, wood dog houses are usually more substantial than plastic ones, they provide more design add-on options, and they'll supply your dog better protection from the elements. Wood is a far better insulator than plastic so your pet is less likely to

overheat inside a wood house. It has a tendency to produce warmer, fuzzier feelings than plastic material ever will. And lots of people choose the natural look of wood to plastic. Ticks and fleas can generate problems with wood houses however this can be mitigated by getting a cedar wood house and using cedar shavings for bedding.

On the other hand, metal can also be used for dog houses. Such constructions are usually known as dog "boxes" and are often utilized to transport dogs and offer temporary housing for shows and competitive sports. Nonetheless, some owners certainly use them as year-round houses. Metal dog boxes are constructed from aluminum or stainless steel and are often insulated because metal by itself is an inadequate insulator. Most dog boxes don't come cheap however they are usually very solidly built and will most likely outlive your dog.

Dog House Size

Choosing the right house size for your dog can be one of the more complicated facets of dog house shopping. That's most likely because there are all sorts of guidelines available. Without being excessively technical, here are some ideas to help you identify what you and your dog really need:

- The dog house needs to be large enough so that your pet can turn around in it and lie down completely stretched out inside.
- Bigger isn't usually better. Canines feel safer in small spaces. Additionally, an extra-large dog house is trickier to keep warm during cold weather.
- If your dog is still a pup, research what her average adult weight and size will be and pick a house keeping that in mind.
- Before shelling out a lot of money on a dog house, think about making a cardboard mock-up that has the identical dimensions as the house. Cajole your dog inside and see if he can easily turnaround and lie down easily.

Entrance and Door

Probably the first consideration for a proper sized dog house is the doorway. It needs to be big enough for your dog to easily enter and exit of the house however, not so big that it leads to excessive heat loss and over-exposure to the elements. Keep in mind that,

unlike people, dogs need smaller doors than what their total height is. They don't have any problems with having to duck to enter a house.

Just how big should a doorway be? There are at least two guidelines employed to know for sure. The first one states that the door height opening should not be less than 3/4 of the dog's shoulder to ground height. The second rule states that the opening needs to be at least 1" more than the distance from the top of the dog's shoulder to the bottom of his chest. No matter formula used, these are minimum entrance heights; you can acquire a house with a taller doorway, just remember that heat retention and coziness could suffer.

The width of a dog house doorway has to be just a bit larger than the girth of your dog. The location of the doorway can be crucial, too. The classic style dog house has the doorway centered in the middle of the house. This looks okay but may not be ideal depending on the harshness of your weather and your dog's desire for privacy.

A dog house entrance that is situated off center reduces direct exposure to the outdoor elements and gives extra privacy space indoors for your dog to hang out. An off center doorway also offers extra room to insert an interior wind deflection panel which further increases the warmth and coziness of the house.

Some doors are created to be detachable. This is good in terms of improving air flow during the hot summer so long as you don't mind a little rain getting in from time to time. If you find a house that you like but it doesn't come with a doorway, don't worry. You can get some vinyl from the store and build your own.

Roof Type

If you're looking for a wooden dog house, you'll have to determine what type of roof you want. This is both a style and function selection. Wooden dog houses typically feature either: 1) the classic pitched roof made from two sections joined together to create a peak, or 2) the single panel roof, generally with a gentle slope from the front to the back of the house.

A third type of roof is the loft or sun deck style roof, which is often a single or double panel roof with an attached wooden platform on top.

Raised Floor

Preferably, a dog house must have an insulated floor that is raised a few inches above the ground. This "dead air space" gives an extra measure of insulation, keeps dampness away from the house and your dog, and gives extra protection against flea invasion from hatching eggs in the soil. A raised floor additionally stops the wood from rotting thereby extending the life of the dog house.

Some dog houses are created with skid plates or expanded corner posts to elevate the house above the ground. A similar result can be achieved by placing the house on top of bricks, stones, or 4x4 blocks of wood.

Despite having a raised floor, the wood on the underside of the floor can be susceptible to rotting as time passes - particularly wood in direct exposure to the ground. To reduce rotting, choose a dog house that utilizes decay resistant woods like cedar or redwood.

Bedding

Not every type of dog house bedding is the same. You'll often find guidelines to use blankets, towels, carpet, hay, straw, old newspapers, just about whatever you can get your hands on. The issue with most of these materials is that they entice and sustain fleas, ticks, and other critters. They're also prone to mold and mildew.

A more sensible choice is to use cedar shavings for bedding since the oils in the cedar will get rid of fleas and ticks. Even so, know that the cedar oils trigger contact allergies in a small number of dogs. To reduce this possibility - also to keep the house neater - you can get a dog bed cover with a liner and stuff the liner with the wood chips.

Ventilation

If a dog house falls short of sufficient ventilation, the air will become hot and sweltering throughout the summer, making an unpleasant and possibly dangerous environment for your dog. During the winter, poor ventilation may lead to excessive moisture buildup from the dog's breathing. This moisture will condense on the interior surfaces setting up a clammy environment and alluring bugs and mildew to take up residence. So, correct ventilation is vital.

The doorway opening certainly offers a certain degree of ventilation but if a door flap is used, the ventilation will be limited. This is really a problem during the winter when door flaps are used to maintain the house warmer.

Just a few small quarter-sized holes on top of a house will usually suffice for venting. Keep in mind, hot air rises. Some houses have slatted ventilation openings, usually in the design of windows. These can work rather effectively at bettering air flow while keeping out snow and rain. Nonetheless, if the opening wrong in size, this can result in extreme heat loss during the winter. Be ready to partially conceal the openings with something like vinyl door flap material.

Heating

To heat or not to heat. That is a concern that dog house buyers at times deal with. There are really two inquiries to respond to: 1) does your dog need additional heat to keep warm? 2) If that's the case, what's the best way to heat the house?

Heating a Dog House

If your home is in an area with freezing winters, the temperature may get so cold on occasion that your dog's body heat isn't sufficient to keep him warm in the dog house.

This is most likely to be true with older dogs since their metabolism and overall fitness isn't what it had been. The same pertains to sick dogs or canines who are recovering from an ailment. In these scenarios, a heated dog house can make a big difference.

A heated dog house is likewise encouraged if the house will be utilized for whelping.

Correct Cold Temperature Construction

Prior to getting into the basics of heating a dog house, it's worth mentioning that a properly constructed dog house goes quite a distance towards keeping your pet comfy warm during the winter. Preferably, a cold weather dog house has the following elements:

The dog house floor is insulated and raised above the ground. A cement floor is nice and cool during the cold months but bitter cold in the wintertime. It soaks the warmth right out of live things. Insulated wood is best. In a pinch, you can place the dog house on top of a wooden pallet.

- The house is big enough for your dog to comfortably turn around and to stretch out however, not so large that its own body heat can't maintain the house warm.
- The floor, walls, and roof of the dog house are insulated.
- The doorway has some sort of door. A flap of clear vinyl or carpet will be enough.
- The house has an interior wind break wall so your pet is better protected against the elements.

Items for Heating a Dog House

With regards to heating a dog house, below are a few recommendations you can consider.

Heated Kennel Mat

The easiest and cheapest approach to heating a dog house is to use a heated kennel mat or heating pad. You just place it on the floor of the dog house and plug it in. As an alternative, the mat could be hung on a wall of the house so the dog could lie against instead of over it.

A heated mat is a superb way to warm your pet - particularly if the house is insulated - though some owners may be a bit concern about their dog sleeping right on an electric device with a cord running from it. This is really a concern if your pet is a chewer. Be aware that most mats have a metal safety coil round the cord so if you can

Run the unprotected section of the cord out of the dog's reach, it'll be fine. Otherwise, you may consider encasing the rest of the cable with PVC pipe. A heated dog mat is suitable for wood, metal, and plastic dog houses. Most other heating sources are equipped for wood or metal houses only.

Heated Dog Bed

Heated canine beds are the same in some respects to heated kennel mats with the main distinction being that they are made for indoor use only. They offer radiant heating from a heating strip hidden inside the padded bed that keeps the top of bed about 12° to 15° above the ambient air temperature.

The outer covers are often detachable and washable. For those who have a drafty house or maybe an older dog with poor circulation, a heated dog bed is an inexpensive way to keep your pet warm and comfortable. Energy consumption is minimal - on the same level as the 10-watt bulb.

Heater Box

A dog house heater box is essentially a metal box with a light bulb or ceramic emitter inside. The box mounts in an upper nook of the dog house so as to not impinge on your dog's sleeping space and warms the house in similar way as the egg incubator does.

At present, there are just a few designs of heater boxes available.

CHAPTER THREE

Building a Dog House

Your four-legged friend also wants a home to be proud of. You have the option to either buy him a dog house or build one yourself. The building isn't really hard to do, particularly for those who are good with their hands. You can give your pet a getaway from the elements that also suit your home. With this chapter, a novice level, DIY-er will be able to finish this project in just a weekend, making use of common household tools.

You'll need:

- Tape Measure
- Hammer
- Square
- Circular Saw
- Table Saw
- Paintbrush
- Dust Mask
- Goggles
- Hearing Protection
- 4 x 8 Set of 5/8-inches Exterior Siding
- 8-ft. 2 x 4
- 10-ft. 2 x 4 (rated for outdoor use)
- Nails (16d for base, 8d for house and short roofing nails for shingles)
- Shingles
- Paint or Stain

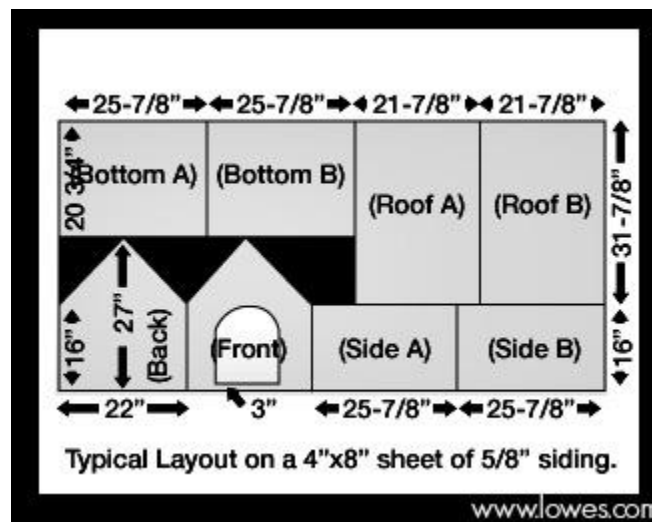
First Step: Planning

Constructing a nice-looking AND safe dog house needn't be a complex project. Just maintain a couple of basics planned:

1. The dog house needs to have a floor which sits far enough above ground to stop water from getting inside during the rainy/snowy days. Elevating the floor will likewise separate it from the cold ground in the winter months.
2. Take into account your dog's behaviors. For instance, some canines prefer to sit on top of their house. If you feel that this may be the case with your pet, don't put any roll roofing or shingles on top of the house since they can get hot during the summer time. Just use an exterior plywood panel, cured with a non-toxic additive such as linseed oil.
3. The sample dog house in this chapter was created for an average sized dog. You can scale the dimensions up or down as required to cater to your pet. It must be big enough to allow your pet to turn around easily in it. Don't make it too big, since a smaller house is more quickly warmed up by the dog's natural body heat-a vital consideration in winter.
4. Ensure nails are precisely driven. You wouldn't want the points of nails sticking into the living space of your pet as these tools can result in injury.

Cutting Out the Your Dog House's Parts

The model below provides measurements for the panel elements of t dog house. The house is meant to maximize the use of a single sheet of plywood siding. See that the illustration has two floor panels; this is so it is possible to double the thickness of the floor for hardness.



Step One

Set down the panels on the back of the siding (like in the drawing). Then, cautiously cut out the panels on the lines. Cut the entry hole only big enough to permit your dog easy access.

Step Two

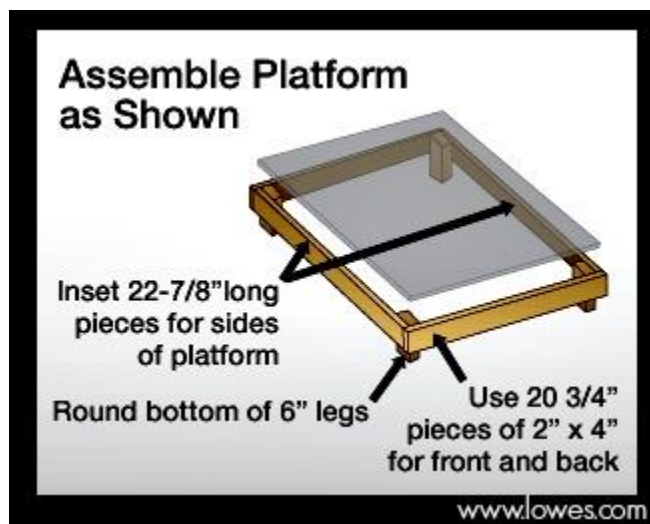
Cut your 10' 2x4 into the following:

- 2 pieces 22-7/8" long (platform sides)
- 2 pieces 20 3/4" long (platform front and back)
- 4 pieces 6" long (platform legs)

These cuttings will be utilized to construct the platform on which the dog house will be constructed.

Piecing Together the Dog House Platform

Check with the drawing below when carrying out the next steps:



Step One

Round the bottom of the 6" platform legs.

Step Two

With tops aligned, nail the legs flush from the inside edges of the 22-7/8" long side pieces of the platform.

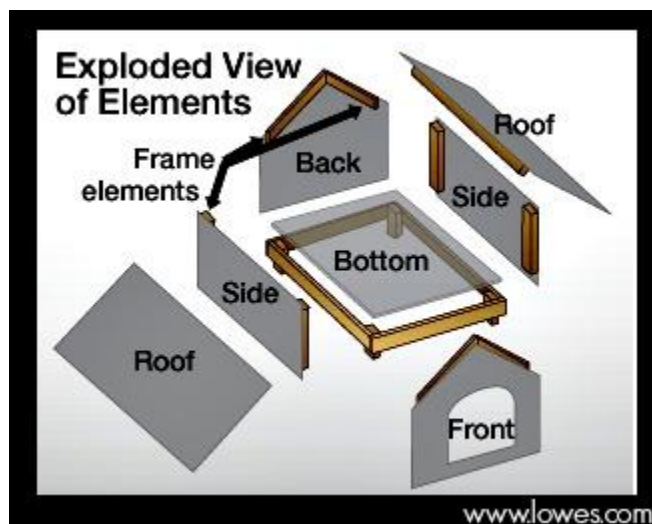
Step Three

Put together the frame by nailing the 20 3/4" front, back and side pieces in place as shown. The front and back parts overlap the ends of the side pieces.

Step Four

Lastly, line up the first floor panel with the frame. It should align with no overhanging edges. This will ensure that the frame is square and that it was correctly constructed. If the floor and frame don't complement, double-check to ensure that you have correctly assembled the frame. If the frame is assembled correctly but there's a little overhang in a place or two, trim off the extra with a circular saw. When everything's done correctly, nail each floor panels in place.

Building the Dog House



Step One

Rip the 8' 2x4 into 2x2 stock to be utilized as frame elements.

Step Two

From these, cut 4 pieces 12 1/2" long.

Step Three

Nail these parts flush against the short edges of the sides. One frame piece must be positioned starting on top of each side corner, leaving a 3 1/2" space at the bottom to allow the side panel to overhang the platform. Also affix frame pieces to the inside roof line of the front and back panels. The frame pieces should meet at the top, and extend along the roof line to approximately 2 1/2" from the sides.

Step Four

Put one of the sides in place (the edges of the side should align with the front and back of the platform) and nail it to the platform at the bottom. Do this step for the other side.

Step Five

You may attach the back of the doghouse. Line it up with the sides, and nail it in place, first against the platform, then into the 2"x 2" frame members in the corners. Do the same for the front.

You now have a dog house without any roof. While you still have the opportunity, examine meticulously inside the house to ensure there aren't any exposed nail points. Cut and file down the sides of any exposed nails that may injure the dog.

Putting on the Dog House Roof

Step One

Nail a 22" long piece of 2"x 2" flush against the top inside edge of one of the roof panels (along the 32" axis). The piece should be centered, 5" in from the edges of the panel. When both roof panels are installed, this piece will run across and support the ridge cap.

Step Two

Put the first roof panel in position (the one with the frame piece along the top inside edge), and nail it to the frame attached to the top of the front and back of the doghouse. Take care not to miss with the nails. You won't want to leave exposed nail points inside the dog house. You might not be able to get inside once it's completed to deal with any problems.

Step Three

Nail the rest of the roof panel in place.

Polishing off the Dog House

Roofing shingles are an affordable and appealing way to stop a doghouse from leaking. If you want, you can shingle the dog's house to suit your own. They aren't difficult to install, and a dog house -unlike your own home - is flexible of errors.

For a dog house, using roofing felt is elective. For those who have some available, or if you are just quite diligent and extremely love your pet, staple the paper to the roof in a single sheet running up one side and down the other. Be measly with those staples though; you need to simply hold the stuff in place until you can set up the shingles.

Run the first row of shingles inverted (split tabs up) along the bottom of the roof edges. Use short roofing nails. After that, starting off right on top of this row, begin nailing the shingles in place in the style you want. Cap the ridge with cut shingle tabs to avoid leaking. Check out your own roof. It's going to show you how it should look.

If you decide on not to use shingles, form a cap from a bit of aluminum flashing to run along the joint where the two roof panels meet. Run two beads of roofing cement, or silicone caulk, along the bottom of the cap and nail it in place.

Round and sand any rough edges of the doghouse that could injure your dog. Some people prime and paint their doghouses to match their homes. Others treat the wood with linseed oil only, in case the dog tries to eat it. If you do paint your doghouse, use a good quality exterior latex house paint.

** Steps and illustrations via:

http://www.lowes.com/cd_Build+a+Dog+House_939249501

CHAPTER FOUR

Tips on Dog Housing

Probably the most important features of a dog house is that it be the correct size for your dog.

If the house is not big enough, it'll be uncomfortable and your pet won't want to stay inside it. If the house is too big, it'll be more difficult for your dog to maintain body heat so as to stay comfortable and warm. Additionally, canines feel safer in a snug-fitting house.

So, I hear you ask: how can you figure out the correct size for a dog house?

Well, there are certainly multiple answers to that relatively simple question, dependent upon whom you ask. The "normal" response is that a dog house must be big enough to allow the dog to stand up, turnaround and lie down easily indoors. This principle is backed up by The Humane Society of the United States in addition to a variety of other animal organizations.

Research is still the best way to fully answer this question. Check out with control center, a number of pet clinics, along with a dog trainer at a pet boarding center. They all have concrete ideas and specific guideline for properly sizing up a dog house. You'll also come across a number of websites for vets, humane societies, and dog house suppliers using this "stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably" principle.

There's only one issue with this principle: it presumes you can bodily test out the dog house with your pet. If you are purchasing a dog house online, you'll have difficulties with this one.

Dog House Sizing Information

The good news is there are a variety of sizing formulas for figuring out the suggested dimensions of a dog house given the size of your pet. However, since there is no single "golden rule" sizing formula, you need to choose which formula or variance of a formula matches your needs. As you will see, the formulations are all comparable but a bit different.

Some dog house suppliers offer sizing formulas for their specific items. In cases like this, it's a straightforward case to identify a dog house that suits. If the vendor doesn't offer decent sizing guidance or you're intending to build a dog house on your own, then your work is a bit more involved.

Tips for Building a Dog House

The dimension of your dog's house is extremely important. This has been reiterated throughout this eBook. With regards to our own homes, most people tend to think that bigger is better. But folks also have way to heat their homes, which isn't the situation for a dog house. If you build one that's too big, your dog's body heat won't be enough to stay warm inside.

Off the Ground

It's vital that you create a basic foundation to elevate the dog house off the ground a few inches. Even basic concrete blocks are sufficient to do this trick. This achieves a couple of essential things. First, it'll keep your dog from direct contact with the ground, particularly significant during winter weather. Second, it'll permit water runoff, preventing rain from flooding the dog house. And much better air flow will help keep the dog house dry, thus avoiding the wood from rotting.

Weather-Proof

The climate where you reside will determine just how much work you will have to do to weather resistant your dog house. For instance, a slanted or peaked roof prevents snow from amassing; however, if you live in a perpetual summer climate, this isn't always a concern.

Rain, cold and wind must be considered. Use roof felt or shingles to protect the roof. Incorporate a flap and/or an overhang for the door so that the elements out. If you get a lot of rain, use a waterproofing agent on the wood of the dog house. And needless to say, ensure there are tight seams everywhere so the dog house doesn't leak.

Must be Warmed-Up

You want your pet to be comfy in his house, meaning making sure it's cozy and warm. There's more that you can do to make sure comfort and warmth other than weather proofing. Put some bedding that your dog will relish. You may use a regular dog bed or blankets, although these may not operate well to climate conditions.

Other choices may be both cheaper and more long lasting, like car mats, scraps of carpet or plastic carpet runners. For a more outdoorsy vibe, you can cover the floor of the house with hay or cedar chips, which may be cleaned out and swapped out easily and at any moment. If you reside in a particularly freezing climate, you may look at a heating light bulb and insulation, as long as they are set up properly.

Keeping it Cool

Maintaining your dog house cool in warm weather is equally as essential as keeping it warm in cold weather. Keep in mind that the house itself doesn't provide enough respite from the heat. Placing the house in a shady spot is the simplest step you'll be able to take to keep it cool. In summer, you can set-up a small kiddie pool near the dog house so your pet can take a dip to cool off. When you're building the house, add some ventilation to let air flow. You may also drill small holes in the walls underneath the roof.

Transportability

Making your dog house transportable will go quite a distance keeping in mind it as safe and comfortable as possible constantly, specifically if you live in a place where the climate deviates a good deal all year round. Mobility will help you to adjust your dog house's location based on sunlight, shade, and the angles of your yard.

Safety

After you've finished constructing your dog house, scrutinize it very carefully for any safety dangers. Ensure there are no exposed nail points or other sharp surfaces that can injure your dog. Make certain that structure of the dog house is sound and look for anything that could result in harm. Above all, remember that as

safe, sound, comfortable and weather proofed as you may have made your dog house, it's not as safe, sound, comfortable or weather proof as your house, so don't leave your pet alone outside in the dog house for long durations.

Family Affair

For those who have a family, consider making the constructing of your dog house a household project. Presumptively, your dog is a family dog, so its house must be a family dog house. Designate tasks to everyone according to their personal skill levels and safety needs.

Creativity and Fun

After the dog house is all built, it's time to paint it and spruce it up, if you want to. You're not limited by any means with regards to decoration. You can keep things easy and paint your dog house to fit your own house, or you can be more imaginative and go wild painting the dog house. While you're at it, make sure to have fun!

How to Get Your Pooch to Enjoy His Dog House

So you're feeling all proud about yourself because you built your pet a dog house from scratch. Alas, that pride quickly disappears once it becomes obvious that your dog wants absolutely nothing to do with the dog house. Bummer. So, what can you do in this situation?

This is a situation that occurs more often than not with new dog houses. If it's any consolation, don't feel bad because you're not alone. And, more to the point, there are a few things that you can do.

Understand that some canines are more inclined to use a dog house than others due to their upbringing. For instance, dogs that were whelped and raised by their mom in a dog house are patterned to it from the first day and are consequently quite at ease with living in a dog house. To such dogs, their house is their home and it symbolizes security and happy times with mom.

This is not to say that a dog house-raised pet will easily adopt a new dog house but it will be a less difficult task to get him to accept the new house than a pet that has never used a dog house.

There is also anecdotal evidence to service the thought that certain breeds take more naturally to a dog house as opposed to others.

Tips for Getting your Dog to Love His Dog House

Don't make your dog feel like he's being banned from your house. Probably the worst action to take with a new dog house is to place it in a remote area of the yard that's away from the familiar scents, scenery, and sounds to which your dog has become familiar. At least at first, give some consideration to putting the dog house better the area where his humans are coming and going.

Timing is important. Picking an appropriate time of the year to put your pet outside will also be important. If you have been keeping your pet indoors and then all of a sudden count on him to happily accept being jammed outside by himself in the dead of winter, don't you think there is just a little testing his limits here? Dogs need time to develop a tolerance for heat or cold so you're asking for problems if you attempt to quickly alter the ambient temperature of their living environment.

Give your pet time to adapt to the new house. Keep your expectations reasonable. If you've been keeping the dog indoors at night, don't expect it to easily accept sleeping outside in a strange enclosure. If your pet is already an outdoors dog but hasn't used a dog house, or has an existing dog house that you want to replace, it'll probably take time and persuasion to get him to use the new house.

Make the house into a good experience. When you first expose your dog to the house, spend some quality time with him. Maybe sit beside the house for a couple of hours with your pooch. If the house is large enough, you can even crawl into it yourself. The dog will be curious by this funny looking new object that his human appears to like a lot. Also try using doggie snacks and familiar objects to entice the dog inside the house.

Make sure the house suits the dog. If your dog house is too large, it's not going to feel like a cozy den to your dog. In addition, if the house is not warmed up, the dog must be able to heat the inside of the house with his own body heat. An excessively large house beats the purpose. Needless to say, if the house is not big enough for your pet to fit comfortably inside, that induces problems, too.

CONCLUSION

If your dog loves spending a great deal of time outside or if you want to train him to be an outdoorsy one, he needs defense against the elements. A dog house can provide access to cool shade on a hot day or refuge from the cold, rain or wind. When providing a dog house, make sure the doorway/entrance doesn't face into the wind during the most frigid months of the year. If the opening is big, suspend some flaps or strips over the doorway to maintain heat in and cold out; and give good insulated bedding, like cedar wood, to keep the dog up off cold ground. Make sure to clean the place out every month or two to make certain no other beasties have set up house.

Dogs are companion animals - they thrive in the presence and attention of their humans. Taking that into consideration, you have to make sure to properly introduce your dog to his dog house. A good introduction and impression will spark curiosity to even the most anxious pooch. Make him understand that the dog is his own but don't make him feel that his being banished from the main house.

Every dog needs a dog house. So, if you're going to build one for your pet (or buy, for that matter), give it your best shot in giving him the best dog house that you can do (afford).