Ten essential tips for creating a pet-friendly backyard

Avoid Using Toxic Chemicals:
- Avoid using chemicals that are harmful if ingested. Pets will lick their paws or nibble on grass.
- Use non-organic slug control methods to protect pets and wildlife, as slug pellets can be toxic.
- Discourage your dog from eating slugs, snails, or frogs to avoid infections such as lungworm.

Create Designated Play Areas and Paths:
- Create a specific area in your backyard for your pet to play or dig, using materials like sand or bark to define the space. Keep this far away from your vegetable bed.
- Prevent your dog from trampling through garden borders by creating clear paths. You can also use low-growing hedge plantings as defined boundaries. Raised beds also work well.

Secure the Yard with Good Fencing and Gates:
- Install your fence securely at the base. Dogs dig and can escape through small spaces or holes.
- Tailor the height of your fence to your dog's size and jumping ability. Small dogs need a 1-meter (3 1/2 ft) fence. Medium to large breeds may require a 1.8-meter (6 ft) fence.
- Self-closing gates are a good option to maintain security and prevent accidental escapes.
- Keep your shed securely locked to prevent access to chemicals or sharp objects that could harm your pet. Even seemingly harmless items like wire plant stakes can pose a danger.

Be Cautious About What you Put in the Compost Bin:
Secure the lid well or avoid composting items that are harmful such as avocados, grapes, or onions.

Plan for Cleanup:
- Prepare for poop collection - have bags, rake or shovel handy for regular cleanup.
- Learn to live with occasional patches of yellow grass (urine spots). Some pet owners take the time to train their dogs to use a specific area that can be hosed down regularly. Google to find expert gardener tips to rejuvenate yellow patches in your turf.

Choose plantings well
- Look for designs and plant materials that help repel ticks.
- Avoid planting anything toxic.

www.pawscanada.ca Feb 2024