Factsheet

Legal Shelter for Your Dog

Dogs will be healthier and happier if they are allowed to live indoors. But when winters are not severe and dogs are healthy, hardy, and accustomed to the outdoors, they can stay out for part of the day in a properly constructed doghouse like the one shown below. Face the doghouse door away from the wind, and cover the floor with straw for comfort and a clean smell. Always keep the doghouse clean and free of parasites. Give dogs extra portions of nourishing food, and make sure that their water does not freeze in the cold. And remember that *all* dogs need companionship. To keep outdoor dogs healthy and happy and to prevent continuous barking and other signs of stress and boredom, play with them and give them love, exercise, and attention.

Professional dog caretakers recommend that dogs be sheltered indoors. The law requires that any dog left outside in the cold or rain be provided with proper outdoor shelter. To ensure your dog has proper shelter, include the following provisions:

Complete Waterproofing

The shelter must be watertight and have a solid roof, enclosed sides, a doorway, and a solid, level floor raised at least 2 inches from the ground on a pallet or on blocks to prevent floor rot. Close up any cracks or openings other than the entrance.

Proper Size

The shelter should be small enough to allow a dog's body heat to warm the interior of the structure but large enough to allow the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Cold-Weather Upgrade

Between November 1 and March 31 and whenever the real or effective temperature is 45 degrees or lower, the following must be provided:

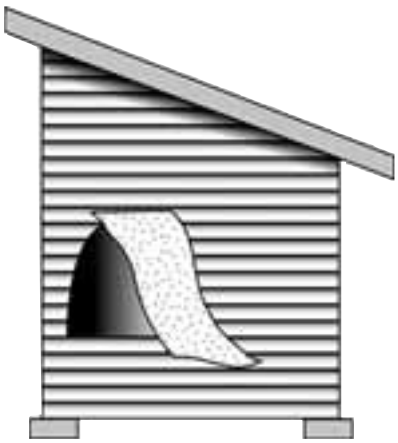
Protected Entrance—The entryway must be protected by a self-closing door, an offset door, or a flexible flap (a slit car floormat or other heavy plastic).

Bedding—Dry bedding such as straw (available at feed stores) must be provided in order to insulate against the cold and damp. Do not use blankets, which will freeze when they get wet.

Location—The shelter should be placed where it will have the best protection from the wind and cold weather.

Hot-Weather Provisions

All animals must have access to shade in hot weather. The shelter should be placed where it will be adequately shaded in hot weather.



Plans for this doghouse design, with an offset door, are on the reverse side.

8/07 WEL115

ABC PETA animal birth control

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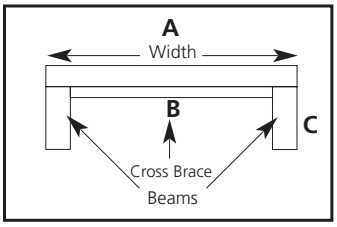
Doghouse Plans

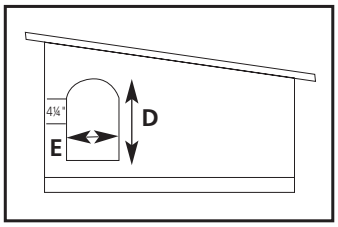
Measurements

(Note: Use only nontoxic, arsenic-free, pressure-treated lumber)

Side View of Base
3/4" Plywood

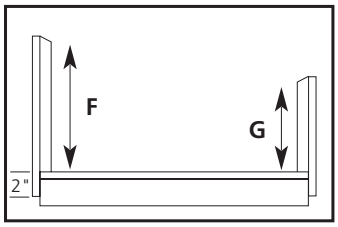


Front View of Doghouse
With Door Cutout



¾" plywood roof with a 3" overhang on the high side and low side. The roof has a 6" overhang on the door side and a 3" overhang on the back.

Front View of Doghouse With
High Side and Low Side
Mounted to Base



Notice the angle made by the 2x4 vertical bracing and the 2" overlap on the base.

Small Doghouse

A. 24" wide
B. 2" x 2" cross brace
C. 2" x 4" beams cut 26" long
D. Total door height of 12"
E. Total door width of 10"
F. High side interior height of 25"
G. Low side interior height of 20"

Medium Doghouse

A. 30" wide
B. 2" x 4" cross brace
C. 2" x 6" beams cut 30" long
D. Total door height of 14"
E. Total door width of 11"
F. High side interior height of 30"
G. Low side interior height of 25"

Large Doghouse

A. 32" wide
B. 2" x 4" cross brace
C. 2" x 6" beams cut 32" long
D. Total door height of 16"
E. Total door width of 12"
F. High side interior height of 32"
G. Low side interior height of 27"

How to Build

Base

- Cut ¾" pressure-treated plywood.
- Mount the base, with 2" galvanized screws, flush lengthwise on two pieces of pressure-treated 2x4 cut to base size (if it's a large house, use 2x6).
- Mount a cross base of pressure-treated 2x2 flush with the plywood at each side of the base between the 2x4 beams.
- Secure the 2x4s into the edges of the 2x2s with 3" galvanized screws.
- Paint the entire base with Marine Spar Varnish.

Sides

- Cut ⅝" pressure-treated plywood into a high and low side. The <u>inside</u> measurement of the entire high-side piece is 5" longer than the low side. Both sides overlap the base by 2".

Front and Back

- Cut ⅝" pressure-treated plywood. Both front and back are cut the same. The high side of the front and back is 5" higher than the low side. This provides a 5" slope from the high side to the low side.
- Allow for a ⅝" overlap on each side.

Vertical Bracing

- Pressure-treated 2x4s are used for all vertical bracing.
- Cut the 2x4s the length of the high and low sides.
- Cut one end of the high side of the front and back at a 9-degree angle so that it can match the slope of the roof to the low side.
- Cut the low side of the front and back 2" longer than the side measurements, which will allow for cutting a 9-degree angle up to match the slope of the roof to the high side.
- Mount the 2x4 edgewise and flush to the side with 1⅝" galvanized screws.
- Mount the longer 2x4 to the high side so that the angle will face down to the low side.
- Mount the shorter 2x4 to the low side so that the angle will face up toward the high side.
- If properly mounted, the plywood side should be 2" longer than the 2x4 bracing.
- Mount the sides onto the base. Use 2½" galvanized screws to secure each corner into the ends of the 2x4s or 2x6s. Use 1⅝" screws to secure the bottom into the cross brace.

Roof Bracing (Sides)

- Cut two pieces of pressure-treated 2x4, which will be mounted between the two vertical braces at the top of the house for the roof to rest on and be mounted onto. Mount the bracing to the side with 1⅝" galvanized screws.
- If mounted correctly, the edges of the 2x4s will be flush with the edges of the plywood all around the top. The ends of the vertical bracing will be flush with the angles of the roof so that there is a smooth, solid surface for mounting the roof.

Roof Bracing (Front and Back)

- Cut the 2x4 with a 9-degree angle at both ends. The best way to do this is to lay a piece of 2x4 edgewise across the top of the high- and low-side vertical bracing. Using a straight edge, mark the two angles between the vertical bracing and make your cuts. Mount the bracing to the plywood using 1⅝" galvanized screws.
- If mounted correctly, the edges of the 2x4s will be flush with the edges of the plywood all around the top. The ends of the vertical bracing will be flush with the angles of the roof so that there is a smooth, solid surface for mounting the roof.

Door Cutout

- The opening should be on the higher side of the front.
- The bottom of the opening should be 5" to 7" from the inside floor. This lip helps keep the straw bedding inside the house. It also provides a resting place for the dog's head when lying down and looking out the opening. The width should be sufficient to allow the dog's shoulders to pass through. The height should be sufficient to allow the area from the top of the shoulders to the bottom of the chest to pass through.

Door Opening

- Install 2x2s along the inside bottom and sides of the door (closest to the lower side) cutout.
- Cut the bottom 2x2 approximately 2" longer than the door opening. Cut the side pieces to fit the height of the door.
- Install using 1⅝" galvanized screws. Cut a car floormat or other heavy plastic to fit the width and length of the bottom opening. Use ½" staples to install the plastic by attaching it to the backside of the 2x2, across the top and down along the front so that it overlaps the plywood by approximately 3". Cut a slit down the middle.

Roof

- For a short roof, cut ¾" pressure-treated plywood so that it overlaps the front by 6" and the sides and back by 3".
- Mount the roof to the internal bracing using 3" galvanized screws along the sides and in the corners where the screws will be going into the end of the vertical bracing.
- If providing shade, the back and high side will overlap by 3", the front will overlap by 25", and the lower side will overlap by 11" to 16", depending on the size of the house.
- Use #15 roofing paper and gray-blend shingles. (If using pressure-treated plywood, shingles are not necessary.)
- After installing the roof, apply 100% silicone caulking to the underside of the roof where it meets the plywood sides and along *all* seams.

Up for a Challenge? Be a 'Fence Fixer'!

Brownie spent his days and nights trapped in a makeshift pen made out of flimsy wood. To see out, Brownie had to stand up on his hind feet and stretch his adorable head as high as he could, which he did frequently, because his pen was filthy, small, and terribly boring.

Thanks to PETA and its dedicated staff, who volunteered their weekend hours to build a back yard for Brownie, Brownie now has the run of a grassy area, exercises regularly, and gets to look out at the neighborhood happenings as much as he wants!

Get your friends and family together for a fence-fixin' good time. It only takes minimal handy expertise, teamwork, and compassion to give a lonely dog a new outlook on life!

Before: "What's going on out there?" A wooden shack is all Brownie had for a home.

Ben and Caleb get to work!

Cassandra pitches in too …

After: "So this is what I've been missing! Thank you!"