

IF YOU KENNEL YOUR DOG OUTDOORS...

The Saskatchewan SPCA recommends that a dog that is kenneled outdoors should have the opportunity to spend time indoors for socializing and play.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some breeds of dogs can live outside during the winter, if they are provided with an insulated doghouse of the proper dimensions. The dimensions are directly related to the size of the dog and are critically important if the dog is to maintain warmth in the doghouse with its own body heat.

- Dogs should be acclimatized to outdoor living when they are young and the weather is warm.
- During severe weather, dogs may have to be brought inside the family home.
- Aged, young or infirm dogs should not be housed outdoors, especially during cold weather.
- Dogs with short coats are prone to frostbite and cannot endure the cold temperatures very easily.

Doghouse exteriors should be finished with a weatherproof material or nonleaded paint. Changing the location of the doghouse will allow you to control the effects of the sun, shade and wind.

Bedding material should be put in the sleeping area; straw is recommended. It is not advisable to use blankets. Change the bedding every 1 to 2 weeks and keep the house interior clean.

Ideally the roof of the doghouse should be removable to make cleaning the interior of the doghouse easier.

A burlap or canvas outside flap should be used to provide more weather protection in the winter and can be removed in the summer.

The house should be elevated on bricks or cinder blocks to keep the floor dry and it may then be necessary to provide a low base platform which will allow the dog access into the raised house and an area off the ground on which to lie when outside its house.

If your present doghouse has a peaked roof and is large enough, it may be possible to install an insulated ceiling and a separate hallway, making it warmer in the winter and preventing ice jams on top. In addition, a small rainproof vent could help to dissipate any moisture inside, thereby reducing the possibility of mould.

Local contact:

DEDICATED TO ANIMAL WELFARE

The Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Saskatchewan SPCA) is a registered charity dedicated to the welfare of animals.

We promote the humane treatment of animals through our education and prevention programs and the responsible enforcement of animal protection legislation. Our Animal Protection Officers investigate and resolve reports of animal neglect or abuse in rural and small town Saskatchewan.

Established in 1928, the Saskatchewan SPCA operates with the support of our members, donors, volunteers and concerned citizens who report suspected animal abuse and neglect.

The Saskatchewan SPCA is governed by a volunteer board of directors. We operate independently of all other SPCAs or Humane Societies.

If you are concerned about an animal that you believe may be abused or neglected, call us today: 1.877.382.7722. Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential.



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**SASKATCHEWAN
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IDEAL DOGHOUSE

FOR OUTDOOR USE IN SASKATCHEWAN



DOGHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The doghouse illustrated in Figure #1 can be simply made from readily available materials. Basically, it is a frame of 2" x 2"s, with a 1/2" or 3/4" weatherproof plywood exterior. It has an entrance and hallway that are separated from a sleeping area. Walls, floors and ceiling of the sleeping area are insulated with 1 1/2" styrofoam sheets which, in turn, are covered on the inside with a panelling of 1/4" hardboard or similar material.

SIZE OF SLEEPING AREA FLOOR SPACE

For each inch of your dog's height (measured from top of shoulder to ground), allow 36 square inches of floor space. For example, a dog 12 inches tall needs 432 square inches of floor space, or a floor area of 16" x 27" = 432 square inches.

HEIGHT OF SLEEPING AREA

Add 1 or 2 inches to your dog's measurement when in a sitting position (from top of head to ground), in order to determine the ceiling height. For example, a dog 12 inches tall will have a sitting height of about 14 inches and the doghouse ceiling should be 15 or 16 inches high.

OVERALL DOGHOUSE DIMENSIONS

For example, a Dalmatian (20" tall, sitting height 23") doghouse should measure: sleeping area – 20" x 36"; hall area – 12" x 20"; ceiling height – 25"; doorways – 10" square; roof – 36" x 72".

For other breeds' doghouse dimensions, see Table 2

FIGURE 1

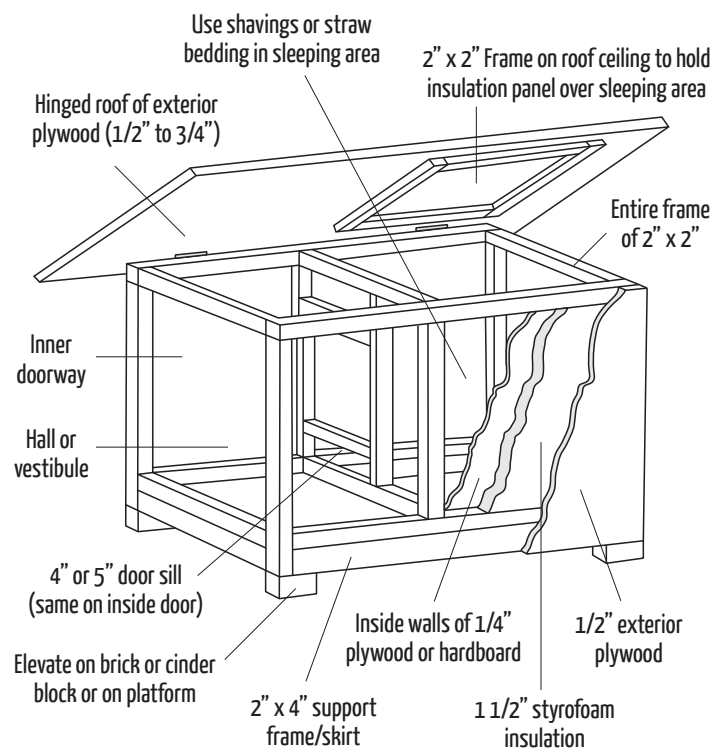


TABLE 1 BREED SHOULDER HEIGHTS

Breed	Shoulder Height
Poodle, toy	up to 10"
Scottish Terrier	10"
Poodle, miniature	10" to 14"
Welsh Corgi	11" to 12"
Shelard Sheepdog	13" to 16"
Fox Terrier	15" to 15 1/2"
American Cocker	15" to 15 1/2"
Poodle, standard	15" to 16"
Dalmation	20" to 23"
Boxer	22" to 24"
Collie	22" to 24"
Retriever	22" to 25"
German Shepherd	22" to 26"
Old English Sheepdog	22"
Airedale	23"
Doberman	25"
St. Bernard	25" to 27 1/2"
Newfoundland	26" to 28"
Great Dane	28" to 30"
Russian Wolfhound	28" to 31"

TABLE 2 DOGHOUSE DIMENSIONS FOR DOGS OF VARIOUS SIZES

Areas and ceiling heights are inside measurements	10" - shoulder 12" - sitting Toy Poodles Scottish Terriers	12" - shoulder 14" - sitting Miniature Poodles Welsh Corgis	16" - shoulder 18" - sitting Shetland Sheepdogs Cocker Spaniels	20" - shoulder 23" - sitting Dalmations Pointers	24" - shoulder 27" - sitting Retrievers Collies	28" - shoulder 32" - sitting Newfoundlands St. Bernards
SLEEPING AREA	15" X 24"	16" X 27"	18" X 31"	20" X 36"	22" X 39"	25" X 43"
HALL AREA	11" X 15"	12" X 16"	12" X 18"	12" X 20"	14" X 22"	16" X 25"
COMBINED AREA (Sleeping & Hall)	15" X 35"	16" X 39"	18" X 43"	20" X 48"	22" X 53"	25" X 59"
CEILING HEIGHT	14"	16"	20"	25"	30"	36"
DOORWAYS	7" square	8" square	9" square	10" square	11" x 13"	12" x 16"
ROOF	25" X 48"	26" X 54"	34" X 62"	36" X 72"	38" X 78"	41" X 86"
PLATFORM (if used)	25" X 48"	26" X 54"	34" X 62"	36" X 72"	38" X 78"	41" X 86"

STANDARDS OF CARE

The *Animal Protection Act, 1999* states that an animal is in distress if it is "deprived of adequate food, water, care or shelter." The Saskatchewan SPCA uses standards listed in the *Animal Protection Regulations, 2000* as reference for the care requirements for dogs in breeding facilities and sled dog operations. We require that pet dogs have adequate shelter available at all times. For most dogs, the minimum requirement is an insulated doghouse of appropriate size for the winter, as well as shade and overhead shelter from rain in the summer. If a tether system is used, it must be tangle proof and safe, and allow the dog sufficient room to exercise and access its water source and shelter.