

# DOGS



## OUTSIDE DOGS

**DOGS ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS** and do best when they are a part of your family. While many dogs enjoy spending some time outside, living outside all the time increases the risk for health and behavior problems. For that reason, the Sacramento SPCA does not adopt dogs to homes that intend to keep them as outside pets.

### PROBLEM BEHAVIORS

Outside dogs are more likely to bark, howl, dig, and chew out of stress or boredom. They are also more likely to exhibit “hyper” behavior like jumping on visitors. Excessive barking can also bring citations and fines from local animal control agencies.

### TRAINING DIFFICULTIES

Outside dogs are less likely to form strong bonds with their owners, making them less responsive to training. They also spend most of their day practicing unwanted behaviors, making it harder to teach them the behaviors we want.

### HEALTH RISKS

Dogs that live outside are exposed to more risks that could jeopardize their health. They are at greater risk of escaping and being hit by cars, stolen, or poisoned. They are also at greater risk for heat stroke in hot weather and hypothermia in freezing temperatures. The frequent exposure to stress can also weaken their immune system and shorten their lifespan.

### GUARD DOGS

Some people want to keep dogs outside as guard dogs. However, these dogs eventually learn guard the property from everyone, becoming a danger to children, neighbors, delivery people, and others on and around your property.

Guard dogs also have trouble telling the difference between your property and surrounding areas, like sidewalks, streets, and neighbors’ properties, increasing the danger to the public if the dog gets loose. The majority of fatal attacks on humans are committed by outside/guard dogs.

### DOGS ARE FAMILY

Now that we have effective treatment for fleas and other pests and the ability to manage and change unwanted behaviors like chewing and house soiling, there are no barriers to enjoying the many benefits that come with letting dogs share our homes.

*Visit our Behavior Resources Library for more tips and information.*

**GIVING MORE THAN SHELTER. SAVING ANIMALS ONE LIFE AT A TIME**

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