

Pet Damage



Urine turf damage is probably the most common lawn dog damage affecting turf. Although both male and female dogs can cause urine damage, females are more frequently thought to be the culprits. Lawn dog damage is most notable on grass that is green or actively growing. Lawn dog damage takes a somewhat round shape from a few inches to a foot or more wide depending a lot on the size of the dog. Hot, dry conditions speed the grass' demise. Occasionally there will be a green ring of taller grass growing around the perimeter of the dead spot. This dead spot is caused by an overload of nutrients in the urine that is concentrated in a small area. The green outer ring received less urine and is acting more like fertilizer, thus causing a dark green and rapid growth. It is also common to see the green ring around dog feces that have been left on the lawn for several days. Again, this is related to the nutrients leaching into the soil.

There are many home remedies that encourage your pet to drink more water thereby diluting their urine. However, avoid certain remedies that requires adding salt or baking soda to their food. Many pet foods (especially bargain brands) may contain a lot of salt already making the food more palatable. Adding even more salt for the purpose of increasing thirst may lead to other health problems down the road. Baking soda is a home remedy designed to raise the pH in urine, but extended use may lead to an increase in specific bladder stones.

Spraying water over urine spots: Using a water hose and spraying water over the area where you dog just urinated will dilute the urine and wash the nutrients down below the root zone. If you do this within several minutes after you dog has gone you will likely prevent any problems. The problem with this method is in trying to be vigilant all the time.

