

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Right Fence For Your Pet

(NAPSA)—One of the top reasons homeowners choose to fence in their yard is to keep their pets from wandering off, according to one expert.

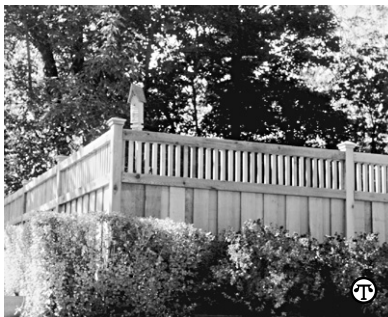
“Homeowners have several options for fencing in their pets. They can put up a kennel, fence in the whole yard, or even create a special area within a fenced yard,” explained Certified Fence Professional Tom Phillips.

Phillips, who has built kennels for veterinarians, says they prefer long narrow runs, instead of square areas. “Vets usually like a kennel that is 4” x 14” instead of 8” x 8” because the dog can get more exercise that way.” Most kennels are constructed of 6” tall chain-link.

Homeowners who wish to enclose the entire yard often choose privacy fence styles in either wood or vinyl. “If a yard is enclosed with a privacy fence, dogs can’t see movement outside of the yard, and they don’t bark as much,” he added.

Some homeowners choose to fence in their whole yard, then create a special area for their pets to keep them separate when children or guests are present. “A special fenced area within a fenced yard can keep the dog from jumping on people,” Phillips said.

Pet fencing contains some unique challenges. “Most people want the fence installed close to the ground to prevent dogs from digging under it. We usually recom-



mend fence be at least an inch from the ground. Wood fence in particular should not touch the ground to prevent premature rotting.”

While installing the fence close to the ground keeps pets in, it can create a landscape challenge. “People either hand trim the grass under the fence or use weed killer to get rid of the grass beneath the fence. Other alternatives are to put decorative rock beneath the fence to keep grass or weeds from growing there.”

Some homeowners opt for a maintenance strip, which is a 6” x 12” wide concrete strip beneath the fence that prevents dogs from digging and grass from growing beneath the fence. “A maintenance strip can be expensive, but many feel it’s worth the expense to ensure dogs don’t get out,” Phillips explained.

To find a professional fence contractor, call the American Fence Association at (800) 822-4342 or search the Web site at www.AmericanFenceAssociation.com.