A Fresh Approach to Dealing with a Digging Dog

Say No to Anger
Never shout, hit, or use an electronic collar. While they may run away, they won’t link your anger to the fun they just had & might even mistake your screaming as entertainment. Digging is dog play like balls, mud, and water are kids’ play.

Substitute the Dig
Discover another passion. Spend a bit of time discovering your dog’s other interests & capitalize on those by spending 10 minutes playing together or rewarding him with a fun new game. As costly as bones can be, I’ve found a few that last long and are quite satisfying.

Redirect the Dig
Create a dig-fun zone. If you’ve got a yard, designate your dig zone by tying down favorite chews (so they can’t get carried off), placing a tunnel or water tub nearby, as well as create a digging feature. Your digging attraction might encircle a tree, be a pit filled with dirt, sand & mulch, or an actual sandbox. Click HERE to see 6 Tricks to Keep Your Pet Safe & Out of the Garden.

Oregano Oil
Creative discouragements can help. Since dogs detest the smell of Oregano oil, prepare a 1x1” square of bread with 20 drops of full-on oregano oil. Discretely place the pre-soaked bread somewhere your dog will find it, preferably indoors & away from other distractions. Dilute & Pour – once the smell is mapped in your dog’s mind, add 10 drops + to a gallon of water. Fill in one of his holes with dirt, then pour your concoction on top of it.

Rest & Reconnect
Keep him inside. If you notice that your dog is digging each time you leave him outside unattended, the message he may be sending is that he doesn’t like being outside alone. That’s understandable. Fresh air is only good for dogs if you’re out there, too.

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