

# Factsheet

## Legal Shelter for Your Dog

Dogs will be healthier and happier if they are allowed to live indoors. But when winters are not too severe, and dogs are accustomed to the outdoors, they may stay out for part of the day in a properly constructed doghouse like the one shown below. Make sure the door does not face into the wind. The floor should be covered with straw for comfort and a clean smell. Always keep the doghouse clean and free of parasites. Give dogs the proper amount of nourishing food, and make sure their water does not freeze over in the cold. And remember that outdoor dogs need as much companionship as indoor dogs. To keep outdoor dogs healthy and happy and to prevent continuous barking and other signs of boredom, give them lots of love and attention.

**Professional dog caretakers recommend that dogs be sheltered indoors. If, however, a dog is left outside overnight, when no one is home, or for long periods in bad weather, by law proper outdoor shelter must be provided.**

**Here's what a dog must have:**

### ■ Complete Waterproofing

The shelter must be well constructed and have a complete roof, enclosed sides, a doorway, and a solid, level floor raised at least 2 inches from the ground on a pallet or on blocks to prevent floor rot. Close up any cracks or openings other than the entrance.

### ■ Proper Size

The shelter should be small enough to allow a dog's body heat to warm the interior of the structure but large enough to allow the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

### ■ Cold-Weather Upgrade

Between November 1 and March 31 and whenever the real or effective temperature is 45 degrees or lower, the following must be provided.

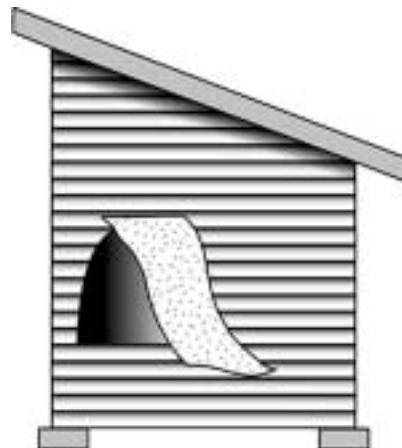
- **Protected Entrance**—The entryway must be protected by a self-closing door, an offset door, or a flexible flap (a slit car floor mat or other plastic).

- **Bedding**—Dry bedding such as straw (available at feed stores) must be provided in order to insulate against the cold and damp. Do not use cloth, which can get wet and freeze.

The shelter should be placed where it will have the best protection from the wind and cold weather.

### ■ Hot-Weather Provisions

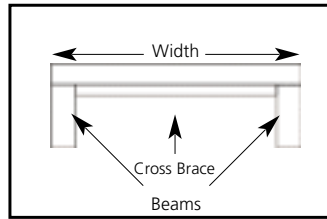
All animals must have access to shade in hot weather. The shelter should be placed where it will be adequately shaded in hot weather.



**Plans for this improved dog-house design, with an offset door, are attached.**

# Doghouse Plans

**NOTE: USE ONLY PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER**



## ■ Measurements

### Side View of Base (3/4" Plywood)

24" wide for small doghouse

30" wide for medium doghouse

32" wide for large doghouse

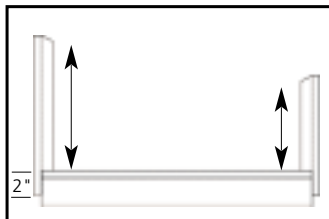
2" x 2" cross brace for small doghouse

2" x 4" cross brace for medium and large doghouses

2" x 4" beams cut 26" long for small doghouse

2" x 6" beams cut 30" long for medium doghouse

2" x 6" beams cut 32" long for large doghouse



### Front View of Doghouse With High Side and Low Side Mounted to Base

High side interior height of 25" for small doghouse

High side interior height of 30" for medium doghouse

High side interior height of 32" for large doghouse

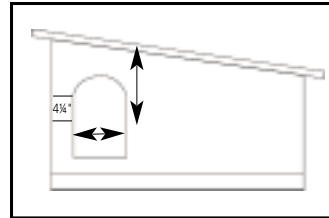
Low side interior height of 20" for small doghouse

Low side interior height of 25" for medium doghouse

Low side interior height of 27" for large doghouse

Notice the angle of the 2x4 vertical bracing and the 2" overlap on the base.

### Front View of Doghouse With Door Cut



3/4" plywood roof with a 3" overhang on the high side and low side. The roof has a 6" overhang on the door side and a 3" overhang on the back side.

Total door height of 12" for small doghouse

Total door height of 14" for medium doghouse

Total door height of 16" for large doghouse

Total door width of 10" for small doghouse

Total door width of 11" for medium doghouse

Total door width of 12" for large doghouse

## ■ Build Base

- Cut 3/4" pressure-treated plywood.
- Mount the base, with 2" galvanized screws, flush lengthwise on two pieces of pressure-treated 2x4 cut to base size (if it's a large house, use 2x6).
- Mount a cross base of pressure-treated 2x2 flush with the plywood at each side of the base between the 2x4 beams.
- Secure the 2x4s into the edges of the 2x2s with 3" galvanized screws.
- Paint the entire base with Marine Spar Varnish.

## ■ Sides

- Cut 5/8" pressure-treated plywood into a high and low side. The inside measurement of the entire high-side piece is 5" larger than the low side. Both sides overlap the base by 2".

## ■ Front and Back

- Cut 5/8" pressure-treated plywood. Both front and back are cut the same. The high side of the front and back is 5" higher than the low side. This provides a 5" slope from the high side to the low side.
- Allow for a 5/8" overlap on each side.

### ■ Vertical Bracing

- Pressure-treated 2x4s are used for all vertical bracing.
- Cut the 2x4s the length of the high and low sides.
- The high side of the front and back will need one end cut at a 9-degree angle so that it can match the slope of the roof to the low side.
- The low side of the front and back will need to be cut 2" longer than the side measurements, which will allow for cutting a 9-degree angle up to match the slope of the roof to the high side.
- Mount the 2x4 edgewise and flush to the side with 1½" galvanized screws.
- The longer 2x4 mounts to the high side so that the angle will face down to the low side.
- The shorter 2x4 mounts to the low side so that the angle will face up toward the high side.
- If properly mounted, the plywood side should be 2" longer than the 2x4 bracing.
- Mount the sides onto the base. Use 2½" galvanized screws to secure each corner into the ends of the 2x4s or 2x6s. Use 1½" screws to secure the bottom into the cross brace.

### ■ Roof Bracing (Sides)

- Cut two pieces of pressure-treated 2x4, which will be mounted between the two vertical braces at the top of the house for the roof to rest on and be mounted onto. Mount the bracing to the side with 1½" galvanized screws.
- If mounted correctly, the edges of the 2x4s will be flush with the edges of the plywood all around the top. The ends of the vertical bracing will be flush with the angles of the roof so that there is a smooth, solid surface for mounting the roof.

### ■ Roof Bracing (Front and Back)

- Cut the 2x4 with a 9-degree angle at both ends. The best way to do this is to lay a piece of 2x4 edgewise across the top of the high- and low-side vertical bracing. Using a straight edge, mark the two angles between the vertical bracing and make your cuts. Mount the bracing to the plywood using 1½" galvanized screws.
- If mounted correctly, the edges of the 2x4s will be flush with the edges of the plywood all around the top. The ends of the vertical bracing will be flush with

the angles of the roof so that there is a smooth, solid surface for mounting the roof.

### ■ Door Cutouts

- The opening should be on the higher side of the front.
- The bottom of the opening should be 5" to 7" from the inside floor. This lip helps keep the straw bedding inside the house. It also allows the dog to step into the house and drop 5" to 7" and provides a resting place for the dog's head when lying down and looking out the opening. The width should be sufficient to allow the dog's shoulders to pass through. The height should be sufficient to allow the area from the top of the shoulders to the bottom of the chest to pass through.

### ■ Door Opening

- Install 2x2s along the inside bottom and sides of the door (closest to the lower side) cutout.
- Cut the bottom 2x2 approximately 2" longer than the door opening. Cut the side pieces to fit the height of the door.
- Install using 1½" galvanized screws. Cut indoor/outdoor carpet to fit the width and length of the bottom opening. Use ½" staples to install the carpet by attaching it to the backside of the 2x2, across the top and down along the front so that it overlaps the plywood by approximately 3".

### ■ Roof

- For a short roof, cut ¾" pressure-treated plywood so that it overlaps the front by 6" and the sides and back by 3".
- Mount the roof to the internal bracing using 3" galvanized screws along the sides and in the corners where the screw will be going into the end of the vertical bracing.
- If providing shade, the back and high side will overlap 3", the front will overlap 25", and the lower side will overlap 11" to 16", depending on the size of the house.
- Use #15 roofing paper and gray-blend shingles.
- After installing the roof, apply 100% silicone caulking to the underside of the roof where it meets the plywood sides and along ALL seams.