

5. Make sure he/she is healthy

Make sure your guard dog is vaccinated yearly against rabies and distemper by a registered vet. Regular treatment for worms, ticks and fleas is essential.



6. Get involved in training

Get involved with some basic training of your guard dog like teaching him to sit and come to you when called. This will strengthen the bond between the two of you and ensure that he listens to you. A well-trained and well-socialised dog is unlikely to pose a danger to the public.



7. Reputable dog trainers

“Making a guard dog” by tying him up and beating him until he bites is counterproductive: it makes the dog scared of people, such that he will want to run away. Ensure you engage reputable positive reinforcement dog trainers, especially with large breeds!

Who we are

TNR Trust is a registered trust in Kenya. It was set up with the aim to improve community health by addressing overpopulation of cats and dogs, the risk of contracting rabies, and education on animal welfare to mitigate these. TNR Trust runs entirely with the help of volunteers and concerned vets and is dependent on donations.



To DONATE TO TNR Trust:
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TNR TRUST

*“Community Health
through
Animal Welfare”*

GUARD DOGS Myth vs. Truth



Let's be realistic and not expect our dogs to shield us from armed thieves. The primary use of a guard dog is to bark when strangers are around and alert you so you can take action.

The Myths

MYTH 1: “A dog locked away in a dark small box will be a fierce guard dog at night”.

MYTH 2: “A dog resting all day will be alert”.

MYTH 3: “Chained dogs are better watch dogs than free roaming dogs”.

It is **ILLEGAL** to keep a dog permanently chained or confined in a box.

The Results

These myths result in untold suffering of the dog and angry owners as the dog is seen as unwilling to ‘perform his job’. Often the results are:

1. Frustrated and unpredictable behaviour

- 🐾 A dog that is unable to mark territory will be scared and insecure.
- 🐾 A dog which has ‘rested’ all day will be hyperactive and unpredictable.

2. Depression and unhappiness because the dog:

- 🐾 Is lying in his own dirt.
- 🐾 Doesn't know his pack (family) and is therefore unable to bond.
- 🐾 Lacks interaction and affection. He is lonely and bored.

3. Curtailed instincts and a lack of (or bad) training can result in a dangerous dog and can lead to:

- 🐾 Death or injury of a person or other animal
- 🐾 Death of the dog (euthanasia)
- 🐾 Getting a new dog and restarting the same cycle

The Truths

TRUTH 1:

“Dogs have a natural behaviour.” Dogs in the wild live and interrelate with the pack they live in. They also have their own established territory, and become aggressive when strange dogs enter it. They will drive them away or sometimes even kill them.

TRUTH 2:

“A dog has to relate to a pack!” In the case of a domestic dog that is represented by the family and/or other dogs it lives with. If a dog is shut away all day, can't see daylight or is chained up and ignored, it can't relate to other living beings.

Would you defend your keeper who confines you in a box without a toilet for 12 hours a day?

TRUTH 3:

A dog's natural behavior is to have periods of activity and rest throughout the day and night, just like humans. He will sleep a certain amount of time and will then want to run and play, investigate the perimeters of his territory and mark his boundaries. If there are strangers, he sounds a warning by barking. He will also react to intruders even if he is resting.

Just like people, dogs are mammals that feel a range of emotions such as happiness, sadness, pain, fear and anger. They suffer when mistreated, sick or imprisoned.

An Effective Guard Dog

To have an effective guard dog, his natural instincts must be respected and nurtured. Here's how:

1. Make friends

Get to know your guard dog, play with him and feed him, so that he will form a bond with you and recognize he is a member of your family.



2. Allow him/her to roam the compound

He will be able to mark his territory day and night and get some exercise that will avoid boredom, depression and unpredictable behavior.

3. Give him/her company

If you can afford it, keep more than one dog. He will have company when you are not around, which is important for a dog, as they are pack animals.

4. Satisfy his essential needs

Make sure he has all the basics he needs to be happy and healthy: sufficient food, fresh water and a proper sized shelter that keeps out the rain and the cold and allows for a toilet area away from his bed; just like humans, dogs hate soiling their sleeping area so keep his shelter clean at all times.