



PLAY YARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Construction Location

- General Considerations:
 - Shade opportunities
 - Inclement weather prohibiting use
 - Water run-off creating flooding
 - Access to a water source for play pools, hose for safety
 - Ability for potential adopters to observe
 - Create the largest play yards possible for maximum efficiency and play opportunities
- Considerations for kenneled dogs:
 - Construct play yards **out of sight of kennels**
 - Create **visual barriers** when necessary

Play Yard Design

- Create connected play yards to:
 - **facilitate efficiency** in working with multiple play styles and personalities simultaneously when closing gates and separating yards
 - **open up for a larger play space** for multiple dogs to play freely when appropriate
- Ground Covering Options:
 - **SYNLawn Artificial Grass** (<http://www.synlawn.com/>)- Artificial grass can get very hot in the sun so it is vital that shade be provided with this type of ground covering
 - **3/8th inch Pea Gravel**- in our experience this size seems the most comfortable for dogs' paws while being easy to maintain
 - If your yard is grass and has become muddy, we recommend **laying hay** to absorb moisture and to prevent dogs or people from slipping in the mud
- Entrances:
 - Each yard should have its' **own entrance** to facilitate dogs entering an appropriate group without having to migrate through less suitable dogs
 - Entrances should be **free and clear of any visual barriers** so that the play group handlers can observe interactions
 - Entrances should be **free and clear of any debris or obstacles** that could be a tripping hazard to the handlers managing excited dogs
 - Each entrance should have a **Catch Pen Safety Area** (see below)
- Catch Pen Safety Areas:
 - At each entrance to **prevent dogs from escaping** when entering and/or exiting
 - allow runners to **unleash the dogs safely** prior to entrance when appropriate
 - utilized as **an enclosure to hold dogs** in an emergency
- Gates:
 - **swing freely** in both directions for the handlers to be able to control the space for the dogs to enter most effectively and safely
 - **hinged closest to a connecting wall** to create more free and open space for the dogs to enter (as opposed to being pinned against the wall upon entrance).
- Latches:
 - **quick and easy to operate with one hand**
 - Classic U-style latches work well:

