

Insulated Doghouse: Keep Your Friend Warm

How would you like to spend a hot summer day inside of a plastic box? Or hide from the driving snow while huddled within a tin structure? One can only imagine the discomfort that pets feel when left to brave the elements inside an un-insulated doghouse.

Most people choose to have their pets live with them inside their homes, especially when the weather turns foul. While this may give the humans great pleasure, it's not always what's best for their pets. Some pets, regardless of how much the love their people, simply prefer the comfort and independence of their own personal space.

What Makes the Perfect Doghouse?

Not unlike a human home, a doghouse should instill a sense of comfort and safety. There are a few critical factors that are essential in making this happen:

* Purchase or build an insulated doghouse. Proper insulation is absolutely necessary for your pet's good health and comfort, regardless of the climate. Even the warmest parts of the world can have chilly or wet days, and your dog will need to generate it's own body heat from time to time. Other areas get downright cold during both daytime and nighttime hours. A properly insulated doghouse will keep the cold out and keep the warmth inside. The role of an insulated doghouse will be similar when the temperatures are high. The insulation acts in reverse, keeping the inside of the doghouse nice and cool, even during the blistering heat. This is extremely important, as extreme heat can cause dehydration and heatstroke, and UV rays can cause irreversible damage to your pet.

* It's not enough to simply insulate your doghouse. The structure must also be waterproof and capable of evaporating inside humidity quickly enough to discourage the formation of mildew. For this purpose, many pet owners prefer to give their dogs an "inner sanctum", or a second entrance placed inside the doghouse that's not directly aligned with the outside entrance. This allows the dog to hide from high winds and inclement weather inside the second room. The capacity of the doghouse will be enhanced, providing even more comfort and protection in both hot and cold weather.

* Build your insulated doghouse to accommodate the full height of an adult dog. Make sure that the structure is as tall as your adult pet, plus no less than 1/3 of his or her size. To calculate the ideal size doghouse for your pet, you will need to measure the dog (or find out how tall he or she will be at full adult size) when standing, and also measure the length of your dog when lying down. Then, add on an additional one-third of these measurements on all sides. Remember that the doghouse opening must be visible to the dog when standing and when sitting. The entrance must also be large enough for your pet to use without effort.

One point that is often overlooked is the air circulation of the doghouse. It's a good idea to build the doghouse on top of stilts or an open foundation, allowing air to circulate beneath the house as well. This will help to prevent unwanted pests from infiltrating the doghouse, and will make sure that the structure remains warm and dry.

Your best friend deserves the best. An insulated doghouse provides the protection and security that your pet needs, whatever the weather.