

COMPLIMENTARY

# THE WAG

magazine

an informative, entertaining read about dogs & their companions

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A TREASURY OF  
**CANINE**  
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Designing  
Your Dog's  
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**Dementia**  
IN DOGS

*Brambley Hedge*  
**RABBIT RESCUE**





# Tips For Designing A Home With Your Furry Friend In Mind


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From gourmet treats to high-end grooming, we spoil our pups from snout to wagging tail. Unsurprisingly, more people than ever are prioritizing their fur babies when designing their forever homes. At our architecture firm, we have seen our share of dog-centric requests, but there are a handful of tips every pet owner can utilize when personalizing their abode. After all, luxury should not be sacrificed just because one family member has four legs!







...your pups will love having a space all to themselves.

### 1. Know your dog before you begin.

It is important to establish your canine's personality and needs. Keeping your dog's size, age, health, and temperament in mind will streamline the process. For instance, adding a window at eyelevel isn't the best idea if Fido gets agitated every time a car drives by! If done properly, designing a home around one's pet will actually simplify the job of caring for him.

### 2. Give them a space of their own.

Whether you dedicate an entire room or reserve a cozy nook under the stairs, your pups will love having a space all to themselves. Excellent choices are built-in beds or bowls, automatic dog doors, and elevated washing stations.

### 3. Build a covered run.

Between Arizona's extreme weather and multitude of predators, having a dog door lead to a covered run is considerably safer than giving them free reign around the property. Don't worry though because dog runs are no longer concrete slabs surrounded by chain-link fencing. These days they are as unique as your four-legged friend and often include misters, artificial turf with washable technology, and faux fire hydrants. How posh!

**4. Safety first.** The Valley might be built-up, but the outdoors is still the Wild West. There is an abundance of desert creatures you need to protect Mr. Cuddles from including coyotes, javelina, Colorado River toads, owls,

hawks, and snakes. A gated perimeter is not only vital, but should be "critter proofed" too, with mesh fencing 18 inches above and below ground.

Once you have fenced in your outdoor space, carefully choose toxic-free landscaping. Select nonpoisonous plants and use certified organic pesticides and herbicides when necessary. Additionally, avoid woodpiles and shrubbery that can become breeding grounds for black widow spiders and scorpions.

**5. It gets hot out there.** Automatic water bowls and shady spots are easy first steps when planning a backyard conducive to your companion's needs. You will also want to decide on comfortable materials for your pup's paws. Natural stone pavers are the best option, since they are slip resistant, cooler (textured materials allow light to bounce off); and, unlike concrete, they shed heat between the spaces.

**6. Design options to keep your home clean.** Avoiding white is a simple rule of thumb when creating a chic, canine-friendly home, since no one wants to deal with dirt stains. Instead, opt for a color scheme your furry friend's hair and potential mess will blend into. In regards to flooring, having hardwood or stone in rooms your dog frequents is ideal due to durability and ease of cleaning. If your pooch has traction troubles on hard floors, or it doesn't fit your aesthetic, you will want to go with low-pile carpeting and rugs.

## MORE TIPS FROM THE PROS

"Treating the area where your dog goes potty with a pet- and child-safe enzyme will help with both odor and transmission of germs."  
~ Annette Jacobs, owner  
*Poo Happens*

"The wonderful selections in indoor/outdoor fabrics for pets and weather is simply amazing. They are so attractive and resilient that people use them indoors for their bedding and all kinds of upholstery needs all the time."  
~ Yvonne Wyman, owner  
*Fantasia Interiors*

"We find that when people have animals in their homes, there's an increased need for cleaning of air ducts. It's especially true when pets spend time both inside and outside, since they track in more dust and pollen. This, along with pet hair and dander, causes an increased need for regular cleaning of air ducts, carpet, and tile."  
~ Jesse Clark, owner  
*Sunshine Cleaning & Restoration*