



Safety Plan for Backyard Entry and Dog Encounters

I. Preparation Before Entry

- 1. Verify Property Access Instructions:**
 - Review any special instructions provided by the client regarding gate access, pets, or other considerations before arriving.
 - Ensure you have the correct tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) ready.
 - 2. Perform a Visual Inspection Before Entering the Backyard:**
 - Look through gates or fences to check for the presence of a dog or other animals.
 - Identify any visible hazards, such as broken fences, unlocked gates, or debris.
 - 3. Notify the Client if Required:**
 - Follow the agreed-upon protocol for contacting clients before or upon arrival if necessary.
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II. Entering the Backyard

- 1. Secure the Gate Upon Entry and Exit:**
 - Open the gate slowly to avoid startling any animals.
 - Close and latch the gate securely after entering and exiting to prevent pets from escaping.
 - 2. Scan the Area Immediately After Entering:**
 - Observe the backyard for any pets, hazards, or obstructions.
 - Keep tools and bags close to avoid creating tripping hazards.
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III. Encountering a Dog in the Backyard

1. If a Dog Is Present and the Client Has Instructed That It Is Safe

- Approach the dog calmly and confidently but avoid sudden movements or loud noises.
- Avoid direct eye contact, as this can be perceived as a challenge.



- Allow the dog to sniff you if it approaches.
- If the dog exhibits signs of aggression (e.g., growling, baring teeth, raised hackles), do not attempt to engage. Leave the backyard immediately and contact the client via the app and notify your manager.

2. If a Dog Is Present but Should Not Be in the Backyard

- Remain calm and avoid sudden movements.
 - Back away slowly toward the gate, keeping the dog in your peripheral vision without direct eye contact.
 - Do not run or turn your back on the dog, as this may trigger a chase response.
 - If you are unable to exit safely, use tools or equipment as a barrier between yourself and the dog until you can reach safety.
 - Contact the client immediately to report the situation and ensure the dog is secured before attempting another entry.
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IV. Emergency Situations

1. If Bitten or Injured by a Dog:

- Exit the backyard as safely and quickly as possible.
- Wash the wound immediately with soap and water, apply antiseptic, and seek medical attention.
- Report the incident to your supervisor and document the event according to company procedures.

2. If a Dog Escapes the Yard:

- Do not attempt to chase or catch the dog.
 - Notify the client immediately with the location and description of the dog.
 - Follow any additional protocols outlined by Cooper's Scoopers regarding lost pet incidents.
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V. Additional Safety Tips

- **Avoid Bringing Food or Treats:** Dogs may become protective or overly excited by food.
- **Know Dog Behavior Cues:** Learn to recognize signs of fear, aggression, or friendliness in dogs.



- **Carry a Deterrent if Permitted:** Non-harmful deterrents (such as a whistle or air horn) can be used to distract an aggressive dog if necessary.