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photos available

WOOF! FIDO FINDS FUN (AND SAFETY) AT INNOVATIVE NEW “PET FRIENDLY GARDEN”

Pets Learn to Smell—Not Destroy—The Flowers at The Oregon Garden

Silverton, OR—The Oregon Garden now teaches old dogs new tricks with its Pet Friendly Garden, an innovative new attraction that demonstrates how to develop a home garden that keeps pets out of harm’s way—and out of the flowers, too.

“Our Pet Friendly Garden shows you how to turn your home garden into a safe playground for your pet,” said Horticultural Manager Jill Martini of the Oregon Garden, an 80-acre botanical sanctuary located 45 miles south of Portland. “With a little strategy, your plants and your pets can live in harmony.”

Indeed, Fido finds fun yet functional foliage in the Pet Friendly Garden, where the plants are edible, the water is plentiful and the flowers are undisturbed. Pathways direct pets through and around the garden. Shade is in ample supply, and toxic plants are nowhere to be found. In other words, dogs dig the garden without digging up the garden.

The Pet Friendly Garden features interpretative signage that reveals tips and ideas for constructing a similarly enjoyable landscape at home. Tips include:

- Work with your animal’s instincts. For example, leave room around the perimeter of your yard for your dog to patrol—instead of wondering why your fence-line shrubs are continually crushed.
- Provide an outdoor litter box for your cat—so that it won’t make deposits in your garden beds.
- Employ rough ground covers, such as rock and hazelnut shells, to discourage cats from treading through garden beds.
- Use raised beds to elevate plantings away from paths and other areas where your dog roams.
- Place decorative pickets or stakes around delicate plants.

The Pet Friendly Garden also offers information on edible plants, including catnip, catmint, wheat and oat grass for cats, and dwarf apples, blueberries and gooseberries for dogs. A take-home brochure lists toxic plants that can be harmful to pets.

“The Pet Friendly Garden is part of our larger mission to provide a unique and entertaining garden experience while offering practical ideas for your own garden,” Martini said. “We invite you to bring your pet and make a day of it.”

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The Oregon Garden is an 80-acre botanical sanctuary that showcases the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest with more than 20 individual themed gardens and related attractions. The mission of The Oregon Garden is to welcome and inspire all visitors with an appreciation for the extraordinary ecology of the Pacific Northwest, and to provide a meaningful educational experience for gardeners of all skill levels and ages. Visit www.OregonGarden.org or call (503) 874-8100 for more information.