Do-It-Yourself Dog Fencing:
Secure, Affordable, Relatively Easy

All needed tools are available at tool-rental outlets, but they are basic tools that you can probably borrow from neighbors and friends with a little asking around.

Tools needed:

Post-hole digger   Post level

Come-along   Needle-nose pliers

Hammers   Post-pounder

Heavy-duty wire cutters

Fence-stretcher (or one fashioned from a 2x4 and metal hooks)

Supplies needed:

- Gate (buy a chain-link gate off the rack at a home improvement store, or with some basic carpentry skills you can build one from 2x4 framing with welded wire fencing nailed on)
- 6-foot welded wire fencing (comes in rolls at home improvement stores) or reclaimed chain link
- 4x4 posts (8 feet if using 6-foot fencing)
- Metal t-posts
- Wire fencing ties
- Concrete (at least one 60-lb bag per post)
- Gate hardware
- Fence staples (these look like u-shaped nails)
- Garden stakes in metal or wood

STEP 1 – Choose your site: Ideally, the fence will adjoin the house. This saves you money and fencing, because you can use the house as one of your perimeters. It's also better for dogs – who are very social creatures – to be close to the house, and it allows easier access for family members to change bedding and refresh food and water. You also want to consider sources of natural shade or shelter and include those whenever possible.

STEP 2 – Set your corner posts: Decide where the perimeter of your fence will be and where the gate will go. First, dig a two-foot post-hole at each corner. Set a 4x4 post in each one, make sure it's level, and set it in concrete. We do this by adding a couple of inches of concrete mix to the hole, adding a bit of water and stirring well with a shovel handle or long metal poker. Make sure each layer is well mixed before adding another layer. Continue until the concrete is level with the ground and the hole is filled.

STEP 3 – Set your gate post: The digging is the hardest work, so save some labor by using one of your corner posts as a gate support. Then you only need to set one more post to make a frame for your gate. To do this, measure the width of your finished gate.

This is the only measurement that needs to be pretty exact. If you're using a chain-link gate and standard chain-link gate hardware, add **four inches** to the width of your gate. If using a wooden gate and regular hinges, add **two inches.** Example: if your chain-link gate is 42 inches wide, make sure your two gate posts are 46 inches apart (measuring from the inside of one post to the inside of the next.) For a 42-inch wooden gate, make a 44-inch opening. Dig a post-hole for the second post, set the post in the hole, level it, and confirm your measurements before you set the post in concrete. Sometimes this step requires a bit of adjustment so you have the right distance between the two poles.

STEP 4 – Let your concrete set. At least 48 hours is best. Let the posts rest undistrubed until the concrete is firmly set.

<div align="center">

**CAUTION: THIS PHASE PRESENTS A SERIOUS RISK TO NEARBY CHAINED DOGS.
IF NECESSARY, RELOCATE THE DOG TO PREVENT POSSIBLE ENTANGLEMENT
OF THE DOG'S TETHER ON THE FENCE POSTS.**

</div>

STEP 5 – Set your t-posts: When concrete is set, use a string or garden hose to create a straight line from post to post around the entire perimeter of your fence. Use a post-pouner to hammer one post about every 8 feet along the perimeter of the fence. Hammer until the post's metal flanges are just below the surface of the ground, and position it so the nubby side of the post will come in contact with the fence. At each corner post, position an extra t-post at an angle, with one end resting against a hammered-in t-post and the other end against the wooden 4x4. Use a hammer to drive the edge of the metal t-post about ½ inch into the 4x4 to hold it securely. Your corners will look basically like this photo.

STEP 6 – Stretch your fence: When concrete is set, attach the welded wire fencing. Begin by standing the rolled fence upright along the perimeter of the enclosure. Line up one end of the fencing and use fence staples to secure it to the post (as shown in photo). Roll the fencing along the perimeter to the next corner post and attach the fence-stretcher. Use the come-along to stretch the fence until it is taut, having helpers on hand to make sure the fencing doesn't

become snagged on t-posts. When fence is taught, staple it to the post, release the come-along, and use wire cutters to snip off excess fencing. Next, use wire ties to secure the fencing to the t-posts. Generally 4-5 wires per post will do. Repeat this process until all perimeters are done. Hang your gate using appropriate hardware.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU NOW HAVE A FENCE!

STEP 7 – FOR EXTRA SECURITY: Fences For Fido always installs what we call "ground wire." This is simply a strip of welded wire fencing that secures the bottom of the fence to the ground so dogs can't dig under. **We highly recommend this extra step.** It's labor-intensive but relatively easy, and you can often do it with leftover scraps of fencing. Simply cut long strips of welded wire fencing into 18-inch strips, leaving the stray ends of wire intact. Bend the fencing to 90 degrees. Set the fencing along the inside perimeter of your fence. Use garden stakes to secure the wire to the ground. Use the stray wires that you created when cutting the fence, and wrap those wires around your fence. This creates an impenetrable barrier at the bottom of the fence.