

Serving Arizona Since 1976

## A Pet Owner's Case Study

People who own dogs or pet sit are often faced with the problem of how to maintain an attractive yard while also providing a safe, natural place for their dogs to exercise, relax, and eliminate. The maintenance and upkeep of a beautiful area is difficult, but it becomes even more challenging to keep the yard healthy and attractive when dogs also share the enclosure.

Many factors come into play when choosing the best type of application for a dog area. Practicality, safety, comfort, expense, maintenance, most importantly, proper drainage must be taken into consideration when choosing a solution for dog owners and pet sitters.

### Overview:

- A real life case study
- Considerations
- Problems
- Solutions

### Considerations:

- Tanbark
- Gravel
- Pavers

### Artificial Turf Solutions:

- Durability
- Drainage
- Cleanliness



Contract  
4-06-78-0031A



Contract Holder  
GS-07F-96315

Sunburst | EasyTurf Dealer  
7753 W. Golden LN. Peoria, AZ 85345  
(623) 412-2200 | SunburstLandscaping.com

## Presenting a Real Life Dog Scenario

Formerly in the high tech industry, Cathy, an entrepreneur with a love for dogs, had the perfect opportunity to combine her passion for pooches with her desire to be her own boss. She modified her home and yard into a pet sitting service where she routinely cares for an average of 7-8 dogs a day. The dogs have the run of the yard and an ample portion of her home to frolic and rest while their owners are working, vacationing, or traveling for business.



Dogs can run and play safely on artificial turf

***Cathy's only issue in creating the perfect canine daycare was how to balance the needs of the dogs with the practicality of maintaining a safe and comfortable yard for the dogs to exercise, play, and eliminate that was safe, non-toxic, free from pesticides, and allergen-free.***

With the barking, dog compatibility, and time management under control, Cathy's only issue in creating the perfect canine daycare was how to balance the needs of the dogs with the practicality of maintaining a safe and comfortable yard for the dogs to exercise, play, and eliminate that was safe, non-toxic, free from pesticides, and allergen-free.

**Considerations:** Cathy understood the dogs needed a place to play catch, wrestle, chase each other, and run around. She was well aware that many dogs preferred to eliminate on sod over tanbark, gravel, or dirt.

**Problems:** During the wet weather, the rains kept the dogs inside. Muddy lawns created a problem in cleanliness for the dogs as well as the yard. "As the weather changed, the lawn was destroyed, causing a muddy mess and a lot of work and cost to replace the grass. Then we had to keep the dogs off the sod while it grew, which meant the dogs didn't get the proper exercise they needed to release their energy. I knew I had to come up with a replacement." Even in the drier months, the sheer activities of the dogs wore down Cathy's lawn, causing excess dirt and dust in the yard as well as in the dogs' coats.

***"As the weather changed, the lawn was destroyed, causing a muddy mess and a lot of work and cost to replace the grass."***

**Possible Solutions:** In her quest to provide a clean, safe alternative for dogs to play while maintaining her attractive, low-maintenance yard, Cathy considered the following alternatives:

**Tanbark:** Cathy considered the use of tanbark in place of grass since she already had some at her home. However, tanbark can leave splinters in some of the dogs' paws, create medical issues for dogs who ingest the tanbark, and leave trails of dirt and dust from the powdered tanbark. Raking and replacing the tanbark also requires maintenance, leaving Cathy with more work for less gain.

**Gravel:** Another option was gravel, as it is relatively easy to maintain. However, it is uncomfortable for the dogs and can be an eyesore that ruins the friendliness of a backyard. It would also require maintenance to rake the gravel and replace it constantly to keep the yard adequately maintained; the cost of the gravel would continue to grow, and it does not solve the problem of keeping the dirt, mud, or dust out of Cathy's home.

**Pavers:** Cathy considered pavers for their durability and cleanliness, but the high cost did not make them a viable option. Dogs like to run and chase toys, balls, and each other, and running on pavers compromises safety and comfort.



Contract  
4-06-78-0031A



Contract Holder  
GS-07F-96315

Sunburst | EasyTurf Dealer

7753 W. Golden LN. Peoria, AZ 85345

(623) 412-2200 | SunburstLandscaping.com



## Considering Sunburst Artificial Turf as a Solution

Sunburst artificial turf provided the best solution to Cathy's concerns and needs.

**Safety and Comfort:** At a basic level, artificial turf comes in two types: Thatch products or Infill products. Thatch products just require sand to weight the material down and tend to provide a harder feeling to walk on or run on. Infill products are padded with a layer of infill (a unique combination of sand & rubber), providing cushion, comfort, and safety for the dogs to play, chase each other, run around, relax, and nap. A better choice for active yards, especially in this case – are Infill products. “I like to throw the ball for the dogs and artificial turf is the safest way to do this. The infill provides give and take on the dogs’ joints.”

**Durability:** Sunburst artificial turf, with built-in UV protection, fading will occur at a rate of less than 1% per year, even in extreme weather conditions. Over ten years, this change in color is so insignificant that it's barely noticeable to the human eye. Dogs may not care, but to their owners, keeping the yard looking great is paramount.

**Versatility:** Engineered for all types of weather, and tested in sports and athletic fields, these types of turf products can withstand the wear and tear of dogs running, jumping and playing on the turf.

**Low Maintenance:** Cathy can spend her time enjoying her own four dogs along with the benefit of not having to mow, fertilize, seed, aerate, or repair a real lawn damaged by heavy use.

**Allergen Free:** Artificial turf is great for the allergy-prone pet owner. Dogs won't pick up allergens from romping on the turf.

**Safe:** Artificial turf is safe for all pets and non-toxic even for the youngest of puppies. Not one of Cathy's dogs has ever shown a type of reaction to the artificial turf. In addition, the infill is non-toxic and not harmful if swallowed.

***“I like to throw the ball for the dogs and artificial turf is the safest way to do this. The infill provides give and take on the dogs’ joints.”***



Sunburst | EasyTurf Dealer  
7753 W. Golden LN. Peoria, AZ 85345  
(623) 412-2200 | SunburstLandscaping.com



A natural lawn can't stand up to hard use by multiple dogs.

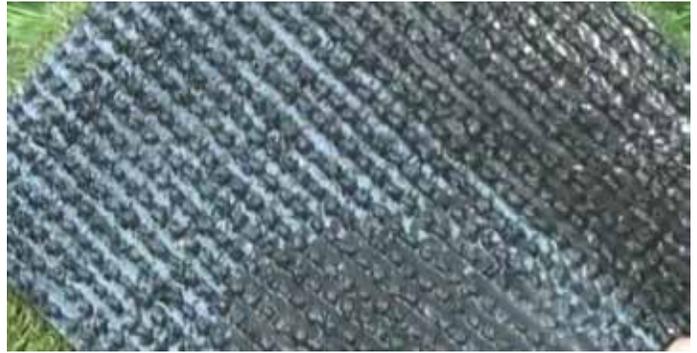


An artificial lawn is durable enough to withstand constant use by many dogs.

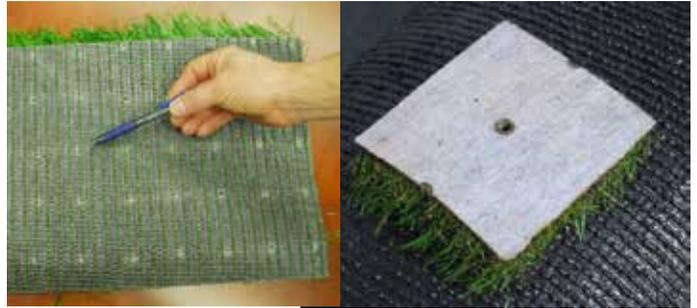
**Cleanliness:** Artificial turf dries quickly and doesn't get muddy. Easy maintenance can be performed by spraying waste with a hose or picking it up. Cathy prefers to clean her turf with a professional cleaning product because of the volume of dogs she has, but the average dog owner can wash the turf with a hose or, depending on traffic or use, apply a pet-friendly deodorizer. Since artificial turf doesn't harbor bugs, there will be no more infestations of your lawn.

**Immediacy of Installation and Use:** Installed in a short time, Sunburst artificial turf can be used immediately without having to adjust with a settling-in period.

***For dog owners a new type of backing, called MaxxFlow, allows for complete and even drainage via a perforated material, similar to how a coffee filter drains...MaxxFlow is completely porous, unlike other products that have drainage holes punched into the back.***



EasyTurf' MaxxFlow system is porous and drains much better than real grass.



Other artificial turf products use a hole-punch drainage system. This leaves the areas of turf between the holes with no drainage at all.

**Aesthetics and Appeal:** EasyTurf looks and feels like real grass, maintaining its beauty despite the number of dogs exercising on it. And unlike real grass, which is stained yellow by urine, EasyTurf will not stain.

**Cost:** Cathy was willing to invest in a one-time cost, knowing that she no longer had to spend money on maintaining the lawn or having to reseed or re-sod. "I would pay for artificial turf even if I didn't have a pet sitting business. The cost is well worth the savings in time and happiness from the dogs' perspectives."

**Drainage:** An often overlooked part of decision process for pet owners is how the product drains. The majority of products on the market have a hole-punched backing (see above). For dog owners a new type of backing, called MaxxFlow, allows for complete and even drainage via a perforated material, similar to how a coffee filter drains.



Contract  
4-06-78-0031A



Contract Holder  
GS-07F-96315

Sunburst | EasyTurf Dealer  
7753 W. Golden LN. Peoria, AZ 85345  
(623) 412-2200 | SunburstLandscaping.com

***“I would pay for artificial turf even if I didn’t have a pet sitting business. The cost is well worth the savings in time and happiness from the dogs’ perspectives.”***

With the MaxxFLOW drainage system in place, drainage is swift without leaving puddles of urine or water to stand and create unwanted odors. MaxxFLOW is completely porous, unlike other products that have drainage holes punched into the back.

## Considering the Best Solution

Whether you have one dog or a dozen, you can benefit from the application of artificial turf. Many of Sunburst Landscaping clients are dog owners or pet sitting facilities.

Little dogs may benefit from a patch of artificial turf packaged in small trays that can be placed in the yard, an apartment balcony, or porch. Conversely, the needs of medium to large dogs are different. In the case of a bigger dog, a full installation of turf is a better choice so the product can be attached to edging or borders and offer proper drainage.

Regarding her choice to install artificial turf, Cathy explains, “For anyone who has a dog, it’s really the best solution. But any dog owner looking to improve the look of his or her yard and spending less time and money on maintenance would really benefit from Sunburst Landscaping artificial turf. There really is no better alternative.”

## About Sunburst Landscaping

Don Gabbard founded Sunburst Landscaping in 1976 and has been the President and a hands on owner and operator of Sunburst Landscaping. He founded it with the vision of establishing a name in the landscape industry that his family could be proud of to pass onto future generations. In 2002 his daughter, Noelle Boothby, left a teaching career to come on board full time and serves as the Vice President of the company overseeing all aspects of the business. To learn more about Sunburst, visit [SunburstLandscaping.com](http://SunburstLandscaping.com)



Contract  
4-06-78-0031A



Contract Holder  
GS-07F-96315

Sunburst | EasyTurf Dealer  
7753 W. Golden LN. Peoria, AZ 85345  
(623) 412-2200 | [SunburstLandscaping.com](http://SunburstLandscaping.com)