

## **PET REPAIR SUMMER PINES**

Dear Pet Owners,

Below are the lawn repair recommendations from our lawn service company Outdoor Images. It is your responsibility for repairing any lawn damage caused by your pet. It is also your responsibility for immediately picking up your dog's waste.

As a dog owner you know where your dog does his/her business and it is often not in your yard. Please take time to repair your dog's damage. Nothing is more upsetting then having to clean up after and repair your lawn when you don't even own a pet. So please be a good pet neighbor. If you do not repair your dog's damage by May 15th, we will have our lawn service company do it for you and charge you for the service.

Also as a reminder, it is against the Summer Pines rules to tie your dog to a stake or door and let your pet wander around outside. Home owners who have renters, please make sure your occupants read this letter. Either email it to them or send them a hard copy.

Thanks for your attention and spring pet clean up.

Your Summer Pines Board



## **Understanding How Urine Turf Damage Occurs**

Lawn dog damage remains a serious problem and a challenge for pet owners. Urine damage from dogs is a leading cause of dead spots throughout the lawn. The urine is a highly concentrated nitrogen liquid not too dissimilar to ammonia or bleach. It's the concentration that is deadly not the chemical. Urine actually contains many elements that are in grass fertilizer. It is like spilling a concentrated amount of fertilizer in a single spot on the grass. This concentration of nutrients is more than the grass can handle which burns the roots and the grass dies. The primary nutrient responsible for the damage is urea, a form of organic nitrogen.

## **Our professional advice**

To clean up damaged areas, we need to dig up the old contaminated (dead) soil. For instant grass, digging out and laying sod over the area is what we recommend. If you decide on grass seed, we would still dig out the dead area and add new black dirt with seed. Both Sod and seed will need plenty of watering time. Usually all the needed materials are available at your local big box hardware store (dirt, seed and sod).

A few reasons why sod is a better choice for your lawn:

- Sod has an immediate visual impact, which you are able to see immediately after laying it on your lawn. Grass seed can take a long time to grow.
- Sod only requires initial watering and then light watering for a shorter amount of time. Grass seed requires more watering.
- Sod can handle heavy rains and runoff, grass seed cannot.
- Sod can handle light foot traffic immediately and heavy traffic within weeks. You could need to wait a few months to have traffic with grass seed.