

# FOR THE SAFETY OF NEIGHBORHOOD DOGS PLEASE REMOVE FOXTAILS FROM YOUR YARD AND DRIVEWAY



Look for tall grass with a fuzzy bottlebrush “tail” on top—green early, then yellow/tan and brittle as it dries. Up close, the seed head has stiff hairlike bristles that catch on fur.

## Why It’s Dangerous for Dogs

The seeds are very hard and tipped with a sharp point that can puncture dog’s skin and enter their body. Attached to the seed are long, fibrous awns, which are covered with microscopic bristles that are arranged in a single direction, like the teeth on a rasp or a porcupine quill. Any contact with these tiny bristles literally pushes the seed forward.

The three most common vulnerable areas for our neighborhood dogs are the NOSE, EARS, and between TOES. Once inside, the seeds start a relentless crawl forward, traveling deeper into a dog’s tissue, causing **severe infections**, **abscesses**, and **pain**. They can penetrate internal organs, lungs, or the brain, which can be **fatal** if not promptly removed by a veterinarian.

## HOW TO GET RID OF FOXTAILS

- Remove them before they dry and drop seeds. Hand-pull small patches early.
- Bag and trash the plants/seed heads. Don’t leave pulled foxtails on the ground where seeds can spread.
- Don’t rely on mowing alone. Foxtails can re-seed on shorter stalks if simply cut back.

## IF YOU HAVE A DOG

- Thoroughly inspect your dog’s paws, ears, and coat after walks.
- If you find a foxtail and can easily pull it out, do so.
- Because they do not break down in the body, any deep or hard-to-reach foxtail requires veterinary care, sometimes including sedation for removal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit [PETA.org/Foxtails](https://peta.org/foxtails)

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