

The Kennel Analogy

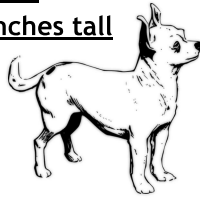
For making better plant life selections to fit intended landscape sites.



The dog breed is like the specific plant life which we know gets larger with age to a roughly specific yet reliable height & width

The physical kennel is like the site's space into which we want the plant life to comfortably fill

Chihuahuas
Average ~11 inches tall

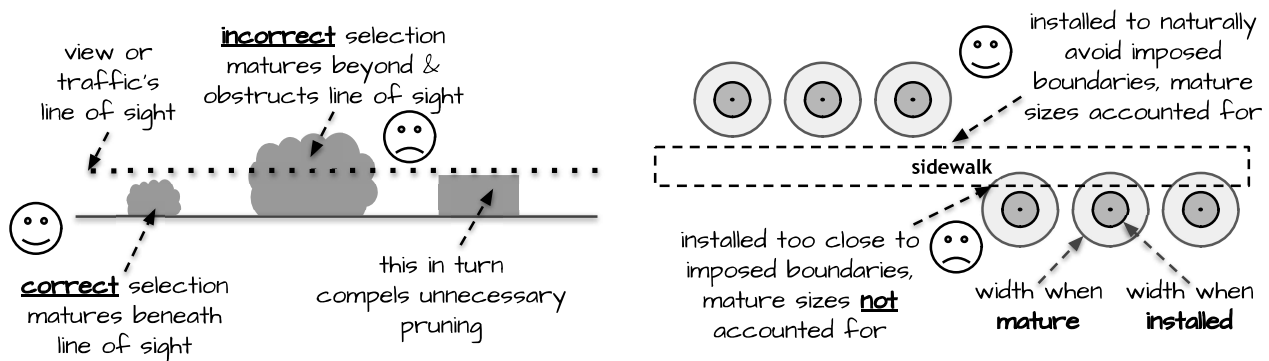


Great Danes
Average ~32 inches tall

- Much like with dog breeds, nearly all plant life have approximate sizes to which they mature (stop growing larger).
- When looking for a kennel (site), many owners will assess the mature size of the dog before buying a kennel.
 - Plant life is often assessed in a sort of reversed manner, starting with the site, & selecting what will go into that site.
- Trees, shrubs, succulents, cactus, grasses, & so on can & should have adequate space around them, away from imposed boundaries; eliminating the artificial need for spatial maintenance.
- If you do not know, look up the plant life online (ideally using their scientific name), & consider their mature size for the intended site(s).

Measure the space of the intended site. Take imposed boundaries into consideration.

Plan for their vertical & horizontal space so as to minimize the compelled need for pruning.



Notes regarding mature sizes, spatial considerations, pruning, & related policies:

1. Pruning of living materials causes damage, inflicts stress, & begins an internal response to close & replace severed materials. This also creates potential entry points for pests &/or pathogens; & increases water & soil nutrition use for many plant life.
2. Hedge trimmers will create many, many cuts; where as, pruning with hand pruners & loppers create far fewer cuts.
3. Pruning for space is generally unnecessary because the plant's mature size can & should be accounted for.
4. Each tree & plant should be spaced apart so that they do not mature into one another, unless otherwise explicitly desired.
5. Shrubs, vines, cactus, succulents, groundcover plants, & herbaceous perennials may be permitted to intermingle, though this should be deliberate, & should also increase the scrutiny over weeds which may grow up in & among intermingling plant life.
6. For details on species specific pruning time frames & styles, see the "Shrub Pruning Schedule - Renovation Style" from the **Sustainable Landscape Management** book by Janet L. Waibel of Waibel & Associates Landscape Architecture in Tempe, AZ (pages 21 & 22 as of the 4th printing from 2015).