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Applewood Introduces Pet Friendly Gardening Services

Applewood Acres Gardening & Landscaping ("Applewood Acres") announced its Pet-Friendly Gardening Service for the 2009 summer season.

The introduction of pet-friendly gardening has become especially important over the past 10 years as the popularity of home renovations and garden makeovers have increased. Applewood has been in the business of helping homeowners for over 25 years to create and establish beautiful natural gardens.

"On many occasions our clients have expressed a need for creating green spaces that are pet friendly", says Richard Brzakala, President of Applewood Acres Gardening & Landscaping. "This need was the catalyst for creating a customized service that allows for homeowners and pet owners to have input in designing and selecting plants that are safe for their children pets".

"As far as I know, Applewoods' Pet-Friendly Gardening Service is one of a kind in Mississauga and the GTA", says Brzakala.

As part of its consultation process Applewood includes discussion points around what if any special pet needs are to be included in the garden space design.

"When we bring up some of the risks that are involved with having certain plants around pets, many homeowners are grateful to us for that type of awareness and concern."

Brzakala goes on to point out that pet owners quickly realize that having an esthetically pleasing garden doesn't mean they are risk free. "They appreciate the consideration Applewood gives to the sometimes forgotten 'furry' family members (i.e. their pets) who will undoubtedly spend a lot of their time exploring, smelling and even perhaps sampling parts of the new garden once it is constructed", says Brzakala.

In addition to safe pet friendly plant selection (visit [Applewoods website](http://www.applewoodacres.org) for more info www.applewoodacres.org) , Applewood designs pet friendly spaces to reflect the pets personality meaning so that some get lots of green turf space for those animals who like to run and play, small rough dirt areas for those wanting to dig.

Applewood incorporates natural looking barriers, such as raised gardens, stone edging, moss rocks and river rocks that are both visually pleasing and also allows the pets to differentiate the various gradients and permissible play areas without having to sacrifice a clients investment in plants and shrubs.

Applewood tries to incorporate hardy medium to large plants (as opposed to small dwarf varieties) into their designs that will stand up to the rigors of pets walking or jumping around them. Plants such as dwarf evergreens, lilacs, and butterfly bush are fairly hardy and withstand some pet abuse.

"We lay chicken wire beneath the ground when we plant tulip and other varieties of bulbs", says Brzakala. "It sounds alittle weird, but it works." Many people don't realize but there are some varieties of tulip bulbs and other flowering plants that have bulbs that are toxic to animals when eaten. So that if a dog digs below grade where we have planted bulbs, the wire prevents them from digging further to the bulb.

Many of the techniques we use are simple and inexpensive to incorporate into our designs says Brzakala. At the end of the day the garden space should safe and enjoyed by all family members.