

New product offers protection from landscaping metal edging

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SUMMIT COUNTY - Part-time Wildernest resident Scott Wilson was shopping at a home improvement store when he noticed a man buying metal edging used for landscaping, and bleeding. He had cut himself on the material.

"I looked at it on the shelf and it was really sharp. I thought it had to be a bad batch," he said. Turns out it was standard landscaping material, and that he even had it in his own lawn.

With his new awareness, the problem began to surface more in his life. Wilson co-owns a company that produces plastic moldings in Frederick. He found out the dog of an employee had recently cut his paw on the metal edging, along with his neighbor's dog. His business partner's dog also had cut its paw on the material.

He began to investigate further, and found through the veterinarians in his area have received a lot of business from paws getting cut in this way.

Although it is not a huge problem here in Summit County according to veterinarian Dr. Gretchen Norton, it is used by landscaping companies locally, and is certainly a common problem in Denver.

Norton wrote in an e-mail, "With edging, dogs step on it and cut the underside of their foot, often down to the tendons, requiring surgery and a cast."

Wilson and his business partner began to brainstorm, and with their expertise in manufacturing plastic, came up with a solution.

The Guard-N-Edge, a high-impact polymer material that covers metal edging, went on the market in October of last year and comes in a bundle of 10, 3-foot sections.

It retails for about \$22 and is available at pet stores and also at their website, www.guard-n-edge.com.

"If we can just keep a few dogs from getting cut - that would be great," Wilson said.

Guard-N-Edge creator Scott Wilson is pictured here with his dog, Ruger, in front of his product, which covers the metal edging used for landscaping. Although not often seen locally, Denver veterinarians treat many dogs who get cut from running over the material.
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