

Enrichment Ideas for Dogs

BE CREATIVE!

- Feed all meals in some type of slow feeder or puzzle feeder. A good example of this would be a Kong Wobbler. This helps them work for their food and keeps them occupied for a longer length of time.
- If the weather is nice freeze some treats or even a bone in a small water bowl. Pop it out and let them work to get the treats while experiencing the texture and temperature of the ice.
- Hide tiny treats around the room/outside area and let them search for them. Monitor closely if you are a multiple dog household.
- Go for a car ride with the windows down if they enjoy car rides. Sit somewhere new like a park, lake, or busy area if your dog likes to meet people. The new smells, sounds and sights are exciting to them. Go to a lake or pond and let them get their feet wet.
- Fill an empty Gatorade bottle with a dozen or so treats and let them figure out how to get them out. (monitor during this activity if they chew the bottle)
- Teach them a fun new command!! Shake, High Five, Roll Over.
- After a long walk read to them! Dogs typically love to be read to.
- If your dog enjoys smelling scents of animals outdoors, there are scent sticks available that you can wipe on a rag or tennis ball and hide outside. Let them search to find it.
- Place treats at the bottom of a small laundry basket and fill with tennis balls or old towels. Let them figure out how to get the treats.
- Roll treats up in a beach towel and let them get them out.
- Fill a KONG with yogurt, peanut butter, wet food, dog safe fruit/veg and freeze.
- Set up an indoor or outdoor agility course. Find things for them to jump over or through. (hoola hoop) Utilize items from the house to keep it interesting. Laundry basket, pillows, boxes.
- Put a few treats or kibble in a cereal box or empty Kleenex box and let them destroy to get out. (Do not play this if your dog wants to consume the cardboard.)

If, after trying these suggestions, you are still experiencing undesirable behaviors in your dog, SUBMIT QUESTIONS by clicking the link under Ask A Trainer on the Behavior and Training page of the Wayside Waifs website: www.waysidewaifs.org.

Written by the Wayside Waifs Canine Behavior Team
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