

Canine Activity Selection Chart

Before planning your enrichment program, use the MAKE A PLAN process on the shelterhealthpro website to assess your dog for safety, skills, and personality.

Enrichment is:

- An ongoing process, not a single object or event
- Only enriching if the animal chooses to interact with it or is affected positively by it
- Specific to the dog based on its assessment (See Animal Assessment)

A daily enrichment schedule includes all opportunities for enriching the animal's life. It incorporates a combination of sensory, physical, environmental, cognitive and social activities. You can also find a wide variety of options in Enrichment for Dogs and Puppies.

| Activity | Frequency | Type of Stimulation | Especially Good For: | Personnel Required | Notes |
|---|--|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Classical music | Daily, but not continuously throughout the day | Auditory | All dogs | Staff or volunteer to change the CDs | Bird song CDs are also good; check out used CD stores for inexpensive choices; vary when music is played and choose music that doesn't increase vocal behaviour |
| A different scent – indoor or outdoor kennel | Daily | Olfactory | Scent hounds, but almost all dogs will engage with olfactory stimulation | Staff or volunteers to distribute | Can be introduced during daily cleaning; use diluted cooking extracts (vanilla, almond, etc), sweet spices; buy in bulk from warehouse stores |

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|--|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Exercise yard; weather permitting | Daily | Olfactory/ Tactile Social | High-energy dogs | Staff/Trained volunteers | Dogs who are not dog aggressive can play in the yard in pairs or groups |
| Exercise in a yard with a person, playing ball, exploring | Daily | Social/Tactile, Cognitive/ Olfactory | All dogs, especially high-energy dogs | Staff/Trained volunteers | Toys, structures to play on/around, digging areas, scents add interest to the space |
| Rotation of toys *See Magic Toy Box | Daily (or more) | Cognitive/ Tactile | All dogs | Staff or volunteers to distribute | can be introduced during daily cleaning, try and include puzzle toys |
| Filled KONG® | End of day | Oral | All dogs, especially heavy chewers | Staff or volunteers to distribute, volunteers to prep | Kong® products of sizes appropriate for the dogs; fun foods to stuff in them (applesauce, cottage cheese/cream cheese, canned & dry dog food, and low residue food for those that can't have the others) |
| Paper rolls with a few treats | Twice weekly | Oral/Cognitive | All Dogs | Staff or volunteers to distribute, volunteers to prep | Use empty paper-towel and toilet paper rolls, small dry treats/kibble |
| Feed using a KONG® or other food dispensing toys. | Daily/ one meal | Oral/Cognitive | All dogs, especially heavy chewers | Staff or volunteers to distribute, volunteers to prep | KONG® products of appropriate sizes, for daily meals |

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|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Splash Works | As weather permits | Physical/ Cognitive | Active dogs who like water | Staff or volunteers to distribute, volunteers to prep | Kiddie Pools filled with water/outdoor kennel or play yard/floating toys |
| In Kennel Reading | Daily | Social | All dogs, especially shy or fearful dogs | Staff or volunteers | A good book and a person to read it |
| Grooming | Once per week | Social | All dogs | Staff of volunteers | A variety of brushes and combs |