

Enrichment for Your New Dog



“Enrichment” refers to an act of making fuller, more meaningful or rewarding. Enrichment can be treats, toys, new smells, play time, and any fun thing that your pet enjoys.

Your dog may think ***EVERYTHING*** is a toy

- ❖ Put away string, ribbons, and electrical cords
- ❖ Put up shoes and other items that your foster may want to chew
- ❖ Place toxic house plants and chemicals out of reach
- ❖ Make sure valuables are put away and out of reach

Choose the Appropriate Type of Toy:

Some dogs love stuffed animals, squeaky toys, or chew toys. Choose the right kind for your dog.

- ❖ **Stuffed Kongs**
 - Stuff a hollow Kong toy with food and treats to keep your dog busy figuring out how to get out every last treat. Try smearing peanut butter or squeeze cheese inside a Kong and then freeze to seal it.
- ❖ **Kong Wobblers**
 - Wobble Kong’s filled with dog food give an added challenge at mealtime.
- ❖ **Other Puzzle Feeders**
 - Puzzle feeders makes your dog “work” for their food by providing a fun challenge.
- ❖ **Stuffed Animals/Squeaky Toys/Rope Toys**
 - Many dogs love toys. Be sure to supervise them while they play as some will tear up a stuffed animal, squeaky toy, or rope toy. Make sure your dog does not consume them.
- ❖ **Chew Toys**
 - Chew toys like Nyla bones provide a great way for your dog to get out their natural urge to chew on items. Some chew toys are even flavored, which gives added enjoyment.

Taking an Item Away:

If your dog grabs something that they should not have, use a high value treat or toy to distract them. Toss the treat or toy. Once your dog drops the item, pick it up. Never try to pry your dog’s mouth open. This could lead to a bite.

IMPORTANT – monitor your dog while they play with toys.

If you should need any additional support or have questions, please feel free to reach out to the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League Behavior Department.

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