

The Association for  
**Animal Welfare  
Advancement**



## DOG ENRICHMENT NEEDS

### DAILY Enrichment Needs

- A comfortable resting/sleeping surface inside the animal's enclosure at all times
  - Light and darkness should support the natural (circadian) rhythms of wakefulness and sleep
- Access to a chew item
  - Bully stick, rawhide, tendon, durable chew toy (such as Nylabone®), pig's ear, etc.
- Access to at least one novel toy
  - Stuffie, ball, squeaky, rope, tug, etc.
- Social interaction (minimum of 15 minutes)
- Physical exercise
  - Walk, run, agility work, fetch, flirt pole, swimming etc.
- Rotation of enrichment choices – Pick two from the following list. Choices should rotate daily to avoid habituation which can devalue the benefits of enrichment.

### Enrichment List

#### **Auditory**

- Music
- Sound machine
- Classical music
- Water fountains
- Music or sound therapy (i.e. *Through a Dog's Ear*)

#### **Olfactory**

- Scent tracking (such as Kg Nose Work®)
- Find it games
- Hidden treats
- Tracking

- Pheromones
- Essential oils
- Dry spices
- Synthetic prey scents

### **Visual**

- Hanging mobiles
- Bubbles
- Television
- Access to window

### **Mental Stimulation**

- Digging
- Puzzle Toys
- Operant, positive reinforcement training

### **WEEKLY Enrichment Needs**

- Regular access to novel indoor or safe outdoor areas at least 3 times per week for a minimum of 30 minutes per session
  - Office, play yard, field trip, hike, etc.
- If appropriate, access to other dogs via walks, playgroups or cohousing

*Please note special consideration should be given to puppies under the age of 12 weeks.*

*Please see "Social Interaction" in the Animal Enrichment Model Practice.*