

What is Enrichment?

Enrichment is making something “fuller, more meaningful or more rewarding”. From our pet’s perspective, this can mean in their environment, their social interactions and in training. By putting in place an enrichment program in your pet’s life, you can help to prevent unwanted behaviours such as escaping and excessive barking and also channel your pet’s energy into more appropriate behaviours.

So you have a Destructo Dog?

Trust us, there are many ways to keep ‘destructo dog’ entertained that don’t involve your outdoor furniture, clean washing on the line or skirting boards in your house.

Is it Deliberate?

Your dog doesn’t watch you drive down the road and then think ‘right, I’ll start with the clean washing then move to digging up the pot plants’. Dogs do what is reinforcing for them – what makes them feel good. You can bet your life that pulling washing off the line and ripping it up, feels fantastic, and being opportunists, dogs will take advantage of what is left around for them!

How to Make Your Yard like Disneyland for Dogs

Yes, it can be done! Here are some ideas using all 5 senses (some do overlap);

Smell

Dogs have millions more scent receptors than humans do, which makes smell one of the best ways to keep your dog busy.

Treat trails

Hiding food in boxes or cardboard tubes

Using food puzzle toys or food dispensing toys

Foraging boxes

Herbs and Spices

Essential Oils



Taste

If you have a dog that eats everything and anything, or a dog that is a bit fussier, try some different tastes to keep your dog’s world more interesting

Frozen food

Fresh food (raw)

Different raw bones (always raw and size appropriate for your dog)

Touch

Surfaces

Different places to rest

Digging pit

Hearing

You probably know that dogs have excellent hearing. You know the dogs we think that are barking at nothing but they really heard a leaf falling in the backyard. Yep that's the ones.

Radio (classical is best)

TV

White noise

Sight

While you don't want your dog surveying the whole neighbourhood and providing an early alarm system for any movement within 100 yards, there may be some changes you can make to allow your dog to see the world differently.

Access to a deck or veranda

A sand or dirt mound (even if it is just to look around the yard)

TV (if it doesn't cause your dog to bark)

Safety

Please be safe with your choices for your dog/s. Supervise your dog with any new toys or items before you leave them alone, buy size appropriate and non-toxic toys for your dog, make good choices in multi dog homes and please contact us if you need further advice.

Think outside the square (and the food bowl!); take all your dog's senses into consideration and let your imagination run wild!

