



Humane Indiana

CANINE ENRICHMENT

FOOD DISPENSING ENRICHMENT TOYS



Exercise is vital to keeping your animal healthy, but did you know that mental stimulation is incredibly important in keeping your dog happy and healthy too? Mental enrichment helps to stimulate your dog's senses and instinctual behaviors and can come in many different forms. Below is a list of enrichment ideas to help keep your dog mentally satiated and engaged (Note: It is important to always monitor your dog with enrichment items to ensure they do not ingest inedible items).



KONGS

Available for purchase at most pet stores and online, the original Kong (pictured) is a great way to provide your food-motivated dog with enrichment. Simply stuff the Kong with the desired food item and cover the large hole with peanut butter, squeeze cheese, or another dog-safe food of similar consistency. To add extra difficulty, freeze the stuffed Kong before giving it to your dog. See the Kong website or additional ideas: <https://www.kongcompany.com/recipes/>



STUFFED BONES

Stuffed bones are also widely available for purchase and can be bought pre-stuffed or empty and then stuffed at home. Again, for added difficulty, freeze the stuffed bone.



BUSTER CUBES

Available for purchase online or at pet stores, the buster cube is a hard plastic cube with a hole in one face. You place kibble or small treats in the hole and the dog must manipulate the cube to get the treats to fall out. This is often a more difficult form of enrichment than some of the other items listed.



KIBBLE NIBBLE

Available for purchase online or at pet stores, the kibble nibbler is an egg-shaped, hard plastic toy with two holes on either end. This is a great item for feeding your dog out of as it will easily fit kibble and larger treats. Again, the dog must manipulate the kibble nibbler to get the food to fall out.



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TREAT BALLS



There are many different brand of treat balls available for purchase (The Omega Paw Treat Ball is 1 example). These balls typically have a hole or several holes which can be stuffed with treats and kibble and which the dog must manipulate to get the treats to fall out of.

HOLLEY ROLLER BALL



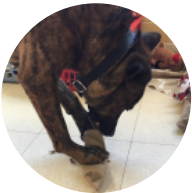
This ball is great for dogs who enjoy de-stuffing things. You can take pieces of fabric or paper, place treats in them and then stuff them into the ball. The dog will de-stuff the ball by pulling the fabric/paper out to get the treats. Simply re-stuff the ball once they have finished.

COMMERCIAL TREAT PUZZLES



There are a wide variety of commercial treat puzzles for sale at pet stores and online. The type and difficulty of the puzzles vary.

TREAT BOMBS



This is a DIY food dispensing toy that anyone can do at home with household items. Simply take an empty cereal box (or any size appropriate box), empty toilet paper/paper towel roll, or piece of newspaper and place kibble/treats inside. Twist or roll up the end(s) so that they are closed and give to your pup. Most dogs will tear or shred the cardboard/paper to get to their kibble/treats. Feel free to make this more difficult by placing a box inside a box or rolls inside of a box.

BUSY BUCKETS



Busy buckets are a great summertime activity for your dog! Simply fill a bucket or bowl with water, chicken/beef broth, treats, and or toys and freeze. Once completely frozen, give it to your pup. Most dogs enjoy licking at/pawing the ice to attempt to get out the treats/toys. This activity can be done inside, but it quite messy and recommended for outside use.

SNUFFLE MATS



Snuffle mats are a great way to engage your dog's amazing sense of smell and natural ability to forage for food. You can purchase one online, make one yourself, or simply use a grassy area in your yard. Just sprinkle some treats/kibble on the mat/in your yard and give your dog access. Watch as they sniff out the treats.



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MUFFIN TIN AND TENNIS BALLS

This is another DIY enrichment item. Using a muffin tin and tennis balls, simply place treats in the muffin cups and then cover with the tennis balls. Ask your dog to find the treats and watch as they figure out how to move the tennis ball around to obtain their reward.



STACKED CUPS

The stacked cups is a DIY enrichment activity in which you can place treats in between the stacked cups. Watch as your dog attempts to figure out how to get the treats.



PVC FEEDERS

PVC feeders are another item which you can purchase or make for yourself. Simply cut a small section of pvc pipe, drill holes into it, fill with kibble/treats, and cover the ends (you can use the pvc caps or stuff with newspaper), and watch as your dog manipulates the pvc to get the kibble/treats out.

