

Canine Environmental Enrichment

**** Human approved outlets for natural canine behaviour**

By Vicki Conroy

A bored dog left to his own devices will find or create his own fun – often this involves activities he enjoys, but you do not!!

Your bored dog could discover the fun of digging in inappropriate places, barking at the neighbours, tipping up the rubbish, chewing the furniture, destroying your shoes, jumping the fence and wandering down the road, to name a few!!

Providing enrichment activities that keep your dog occupied and happy is a great way to prevent him turning to destructive or inappropriate behaviours from boredom.

Enrichment can challenge your dog's brain, allowing him to sharpen existing skills, learn new skills, and be more confident in his ability to solve problems in the future

Enrichment can also be a great option for rainy days, night-time fun, injury cage rest or indoor stimulation.

- Enrichment could include food puzzles, interactive toys,
- Legitimate things to destroy and legal places to dig,
- Scentwork games, friends to play with, human interaction,
 - things to see, sounds to hear, new things to learn
 - Change or rotate activities to keep things fresh

Playing, chasing, barking, chewing, smelling, digging and scavenging are all activities most dogs engage in.

Would you rather your dog was hunting and scavenging his dinner in the food scatter game, or scavenging in your rubbish bin that he has tipped over?

Would you rather your dog was sniffing out the treats in his snufflemat, or barking at your neighbour's cat at the back fence?

Would you rather your dog was chewing up your furniture, or ripping the cardboard box you gave him to get to his hidden treats inside?

Enrichment can help to keep your dog happy and content

A happy content dog is less likely to

- [Bark all day](#)
- Dig holes
- Destroy the furniture
- [Escape](#)

Don't you want a happy content dog?

Links for more ideas!

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/dog-care/canine-diy-enrichment>
[7 Types of Enrichment](#)
[Puzzle Toys](#)