



BEHAVIORAL ENRICHMENT

DIY Cognitive Dog Toys

WHAT

1

- Treat-dispensing toys/puzzles intended to mentally stimulate your dog & help curb negative behaviors that stem from boredom.
- A treat is hidden or partially obstructed within the interactive toy.
 - Your dog has to solve the puzzle by figuring out how to access the treat!
- Cognitive workout for your pet: provides entertainment while burning-off excess energy.



Dogs that find themselves stuck indoors (especially during inclement weather) can display restless/anxious, attention-seeking, and even destructive behaviors.

2

WHY



- Your pet needs mental stimulation, just as much as it needs physical exercise.
 - Problem behaviors can be prevented by keeping your dog's body & brain active.
- Bored, hyperactive dogs often have difficulty responding to training as well.
 - Dog puzzles can be used prior to a training session to help expend excess energy.

HOW

3

- Using items that were in your recycle box anyways.
 - Example: shoe box, plastic bottles, PVC pipe, etc.
- Pieces of kibble or treats.
- Can be a great way to feed dogs that tend to gulp down their food/eat too quickly.
 - Even if it's just part of their meal being used.



SCENT WORK

- Playing enrichment games and practicing nose-work are fun & effective ways to stimulate your dog's brain.
- Your pet will have to locate where the treats are hidden.
 - For variety or to add difficulty, you can change-up the configuration of these items as well.

BENEFITS

4



- Can help with slowing-down mealtime.
 - Behavioral enrichment utilizes mental energy in constructive ways.
 - Great for when you're stuck at home.
 - End result = a tired & happy dog!
- RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT DOGS THAT ARE KEPT MENTALLY ACTIVE ARE LESS LIKELY TO DEVELOP DEMENTIA AND ARE HEALTHIER IN THEIR SENIOR YEARS.**
- Provides a balance of physical exercise & mental stimulation.

CUSTOM DESIGNED

- Some dog toys can be quite expensive.
 - DIY toys are affordable & can save you money.
- Customizable: allows you to tailor the toy to your pet's size & preference.

SAFETY TIPS

5

- DIY puzzles/toys may not be ideal for every dog.
 - Especially pets who have destructive tendencies.
- Remember, NO toy is indestructible.
 - Your dog should be under direct supervision at all times when providing these toys/puzzles.
- Never use toys (ex: tennis balls) that are too small for your dog's size.
 - This can pose a choking hazard.

