



Enrichment Programme

Review and Sign-off by Site Manager

Version	Author (name)	Change History	Date	Frequency of review
Version 0.1	Thomas Hughes	New Document	1 January 2024	Annual

Enrichment Policy

Overview

This programme is in place to ensure we provide an enriched environment for each attending dog to support their physical and mental health. They will receive a variety of enrichment via a structured programme throughout the day that covers play, socialisation and grooming. Whilst taking into consideration the breed, age and health of each dog that attends.

Objective

To comply with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018 and to achieve a Higher Standard for an enriched day care environment and monitoring behaviour.

Scope

This plan applies to the Site Manager and all staff responsible for caring for dogs during their attendance.

Policy

Mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise and when dogs learn a new behaviour through problem solving, they can gain confidence. Stimulation is integrated into a dog's daily activities such as structured play (tug or fetch), treat dispensing toys/puzzles, sport games, hunting games, training or teaching tricks.

Our programme of exercise and enrichment (including grooming, socialisation and play), is set out in writing for every dog in our care. Customers must provide written consent to our exercise and enrichment plan and any exceptions documented in writing.

Exercise requirements are agreed in writing with the owner, with permission granted to:

- Walk their dog with dogs other than those from its own household (dogs must be familiarised with each other beforehand).
- Dogs are exercised off lead within the secure facility.

Where toys are used these are checked daily to ensure they remain safe. Damaged items are removed from use. All toys and equipment are cleaned least once per day daily and disinfected once a week. Dogs are monitored continually when toys and/or enrichment are present. Where training is used as a form of enrichment it is always reward based and punishment will never be used.

Exercise requirements vary dependent on the dog breed, age and physical health for example, a toy breed will require significantly less exercise than a working breed, likewise, dogs under one years old and old dogs will require less exercise than a dog in its prime. The age of the dog and its growth stage will also alter the amount of exercise required; staff must pay particular attention to the requirements of dogs under the age of one. Exercise will not be excessive especially during the puppy stage as the dog's health and development may be compromised.

Dogs which cannot be exercised for veterinary reasons, but are still able to attend, will be provided with alternative forms of mental stimulation.

Our Enrichment Programme

Overview

We provide and execute a daily exercise and enrichment programme for each dog in our care. The programme states the daily structure we undertake, which is discussed with the owner at the meet and greet and consent obtained.

Dogs have free access to our facilities throughout the day with a minimum of two daily open field sessions and additional enrichment activities spread throughout the day. All dogs have unlimited opportunities during the day for free running and toilet breaks.

Generally, we only care for fit and healthy dogs who are able to be exercised regularly. However, we do take into consideration the suitability of dogs that exercise together, which includes:

- Size
- Breed
- Temperament
- Development stage
- Behaviour
- Exercise Requirements
- Reproductive status
- Emotional and mental states

Enrichment

Enrichment is undertaken using a variety of methods. Outdoor enrichment has been added by consideration to the facility's landscaping. We look to encourage natural behaviour and scent work, with dogs that do not present any food guarding or related behaviours.

We use our agility course in short sessions to maintain any obedience training and teaching new commands.

All dogs receive individual one on one attention and this is further enhanced with basic grooming sessions. Nose to tail checks are also included during these sessions. When required, dogs have end of day showers, which includes their eyes and ears being cleaned.

Daily Structure

Time	Action
9.00am-9.30am	Company transport vehicles arrive with collected dogs.
9.30am-10.00am	Supervised play and free running in our open field.
10.00am-11.00am	Agility course play and training.
11.00am-12.00pm	Enrichment activities.
12.00pm-2.00pm	Lunchtime and rest/sleep.
2.00pm-3.00pm	Supervised play and free running in our open field. Enrichment activities.
3.00pm-4.00pm	Cleaned and groomed ready to be returned home.

Facilities Outside

Item	Details
3 Acre Field	Large open flat grass field used to provide a variety of daily enrichment activities.
1\2 Acre Dog Agility Course	Numerous obstacles and platforms used to support basis focus and obedience training
Hot Outdoor Shower	Dog shower to ensure all dogs return home clean and groomed.

Indoor Facilities

Item	Details
Open Dog Room	Indoor room all dogs have access to throughout the day for shelter, rest/sleep to use of their own accord.
Enclosed Sleeping Area	Supervised area for structured resting/sleeping times. Heated and ventilated. Sofas, beds and open floor space available.

Enrichment Activities

Action	Procedure
Indoor and Outdoor Facilities	Structured daily use of use our listed day care facilities.
Toy Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fetch (Balls, frisbees and rings)• Tug of War (Ropes and bungees)• Chewing (Tough/Durable dog toys) *All toys are dog-friendly, extra durable and cleaned/disinfected regularly)
Feeding Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scatter feeding• Hide and Seek• Lunch and treat feeding puzzles