Meeting Dogs’ Needs In a Kennel Environment; What Are They & Can We Do It?

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What Are Your Thoughts?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 7484 1569
Learning Objectives

• Be introduced to the hierarchy of dog needs
• Explore the different needs, and what they mean to us
• Look at what we can do to work towards best practice
• Understand the relationship between the various needs of dogs
The Basics

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Maintenance behaviour
  - Elimination
  - Sleep
Is this best practice for welfare?
Hierarchy Of Dogs Needs

BIOLOGICAL NEEDS
- Proper Nutrition
- Fresh Water
- Sufficient Exercise, Air, Sleep
- Indoor Shelter
- Safety
- Temperature Control
- Gentle Grooming
- Gentle Veterinary Care

EMOTIONAL NEEDS
- Security
- Love
- Trust
- Consistency
- Benevolent Leadership

SOCIAL NEEDS
- Bonding with People and Dogs
- Play

FORCE-FREE TRAINING NEEDS
- “Do No Harm” Management and Learning
- Choice
- Novelty
- Problem-Solving

COGNITIVE NEEDS
Biological Needs

- Appropriate nutrition
- Fresh water
- Shelter
- Exercise
- Welfare friendly veterinary handling
- Welfare friendly grooming
- Sleep
- Safety

Basic Needs to best of our ability
Outside the scope of this presentation

Lets explore more!
Sleep

Not only is it important to promote good sleep, but sleep can also be a good indicator of good welfare (3)

Lack of sleep has been linked to:

- Poorer ability to cope with stress
- Anxiety
- Decreased sensitivity to rewards
- Lower frustration tolerance

How much sleep?

- 16 hours
- 60% of night in unrestricted dogs (4)
- 80% of the night in barren research facility
- 71% in enriched environment and 30-37% of the day (5)
Shelter dogs slept 71% of night but only 2.8% of day (3)
Sleep - How to Promote?

Dogs who received more social interactions with people and other dogs and had more physical exercise spent more time sleeping (6)

- Can be difficult with time

Social sleep with other dogs and people

- Shared housing
- Office time/reading programs

Various bed options

- Locations in kennel
- Size and shape
- Material options
- Offering option for elevation
Safety

Predictability/familiarity
- Routine
- Consistent staff where possible
- Appropriate social links
- How often do we clean the kennel?

Choice
- Choice where possible
- Respecting body language

Minimum exposure to negative experiences
- Reduced exposure to punishment
- Reduce exposure to triggers
Emotional Needs
Emotional Needs

Taking care to attend emotional needs nurtures the relationship between owners and dogs and helps prevent behaviour issues. (6)

- Security
- Love
- Trust
- Consistency
- Benevolent leadership

Similar concepts based around attachment

Already discussed

Responsibility to train with kindness
Emotions Themselves

Part of meeting emotional needs is trying to mainly activate positive emotions

Broadly we can split emotions into two categories Positive and Negative emotions

- SEEKING
- CARE
- PLAY
- LUST

- GRIEF/PANIC
- FEAR
- RAGE (frustration)
Encouraging Positive Emotions

SEEKING

PLAY

[Images of dogs engaged in various activities, including playing with a ball and being held by a human.]
Preference Testing
Social Needs
Social Needs

Bonding with people

• Already discussed consistency of staff initially
• If uncomfortable around new people may want to work on a specific intro plan?
• Building a bond with new adopters
  • Outside the kennel interactions are brief (average 8mins)
  • Most visitors only take out 1 dog
  • More adoptions occur if dog is taken to small area
  • Only two behaviours matter (4)

Engaging in play
Laying in proximity
Social Needs

Bonding with Dogs and Play

Single, Pair or Group living

• Careful introductions
• Good ability to read body language

One indicator of meeting this need is appropriate play

• Role reversal
• Chased/being chased
• Mirroring and matching
• Pauses and breaks, play bow
• Respecting space
• Self handicapping
• Both dogs enjoying themselves
Training and learning
Training and Learning Needs

Should focus on Positive reinforcement

Not only good for meeting needs but also helps rehomability
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Before and After
# How to Teach Loose Lead Walking (LLW)

To be carried out in conjunction with SOP – Basic Training for Rehoming: Loose Lead Walking Training

This plan teaches a dog to walk by their dog with their handler without pressure on the lead. As a result, the dog does not need to walk to heel, and they can investigate the environment.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:
- This training needs to be started in a location where the dog is relaxed, with minimal distractions.
- Your dog should be on a flat collar or non-restrictive harness.

This training plan has an accompanying video – 'How to Loose Lead Walk', which you may find helpful to watch before you start training. You can find the video on the Learning Emporium located in 'General Behaviour Resources > Useful Videos > Video - How to – Loose Lead Walking'. Alternatively, scan the QR code to the right to access the video.

## STAGE 1 – TEACH YOUR DOG THEY ARE REWARDED FOR BEING BY YOUR SIDE

Lure your dog into position by your side, facing forwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B (often suitable for larger dogs): With the dog in front of and facing you, take a step back with the treat under their nose, and turn, so they are now by your side.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**If you are using Option B:**

- **FACED (facing the dog)**
- Turn 180° so that you are now traveling in the same direction as the dog, and they are by your side.

**Tip:** With Option A, you can approach those two ways. Either keep both your feet on the floor and bring them in a wide semi-circle or decide which side you want the dog and take a step back with the foot that’s closest to the dog.

## STAGE 2 – TEACH YOUR DOG THEY ARE REWARDED FOR WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD

Once your dog is in position, bring your treat hand slightly up (such that the dog is still interested in the reward but not jumping of your hand) and take one step forwards. Mark and reward if the lead remains loose.

### Equipment:
- Treats/ tiny (reward)
- Clicker (if desired)
- Flat Collar/Harness

**Top Tip:** If your dog pulls, stand still. When they move so that the lead is slack again, continue walking. Alternatively, change direction, call your dog’s name and say this way in an encouraging voice.***

## STAGE 3 – EXTEND THE DURATION THAT YOUR DOG WALKS ON A LOOSE LEAD

Once your dog is in position, bring your treat hand close, but not over, the dog and increase the number of steps by 4. Continue to take four steps by your side between treats.

**Tip:** Although you are building up to 4 steps – sometimes vary how many steps you take between rewards. Sometimes reward after 1 step, three steps etc.***

**Tip:** If you can take four steps between rewards, fade the lure out. This may mean having your hand in your pocket, then next to your pocket, then by your side without a treat in it.

Continue to progress the number of steps you are able to take before reward.

Even as you look to extend how far they travel with you, try to vary how many steps you take between rewards. Sometimes taking on a couple, or other times walk further between rewards, then reward after one step etc. Variety helps to keep their interest.

Gradually introduce distractions into the training environment. If you have been working indoors, this could initially mean opening the windows to allow scent and noise in, then working with the door open when working just outside. If you have been working outdoor, this may mean moving to a more challenging environment.
Cognitive Needs
Cognitive Needs

Based around enrichment

- Choice
- Novelty
- Problem solving
Cognitive Needs

Behaviour modification

• Some dogs have more specific needs in terms of behaviour modification
• This could be based around problem behaviours such as reactivity or anxiety issues.
• We are working in an extremely difficult environment
• Need to meet other needs in order to set the dog up for success
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DogsTrust

HierarchyOfDogNeeds.com

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References


