



# Animal Enrichment Best Practice Series

# How to Plan & Track the Best Enrichment Program Ever







## **Kelley Bollen, MS, CABC**

Owner/Director – Animal Alliances, LLC

[kelleybollen@animalalliances.com](mailto:kelleybollen@animalalliances.com)

[www.animalalliances.com](http://www.animalalliances.com)



## **Lisa Pedersen**

CEO, Humane Society of Boulder Valley

[Lisa.pedersen@boulderhumane.org](mailto:Lisa.pedersen@boulderhumane.org)

[www.boulderhumane.org](http://www.boulderhumane.org)

# Objectives for Today's Webinar

- Identify tools and resources for your program
- Tracking tools and templates
- Understanding the behaviors you should look for to indicate success or a need to change things up
- Identification and elimination of barriers to success
- Answer your questions based on what you have experienced!



# Philosophy of Enrichment

Enrichment enhances any behavior work you do in a shelter — and is the first and foundational step in safeguarding behavioral well-being!



Photo credit – Humane Society of Boulder Valley

# Enrichment Defined

A process for improving the environment and behavioral care of confined animals within the context of their behavioral needs.



Photo credit – Humane Society of Boulder Valley

# Purpose of Enrichment

To reduce stress and improve well-being by providing physical and mental stimulation, encouraging species-typical behavior and allowing animals more control over their environment.

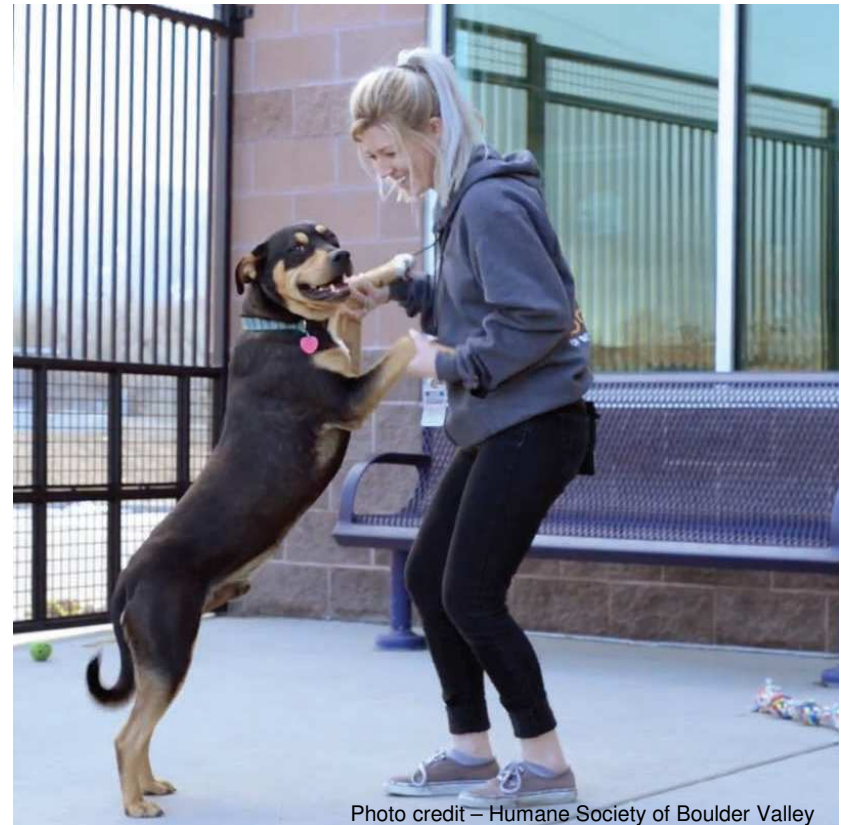


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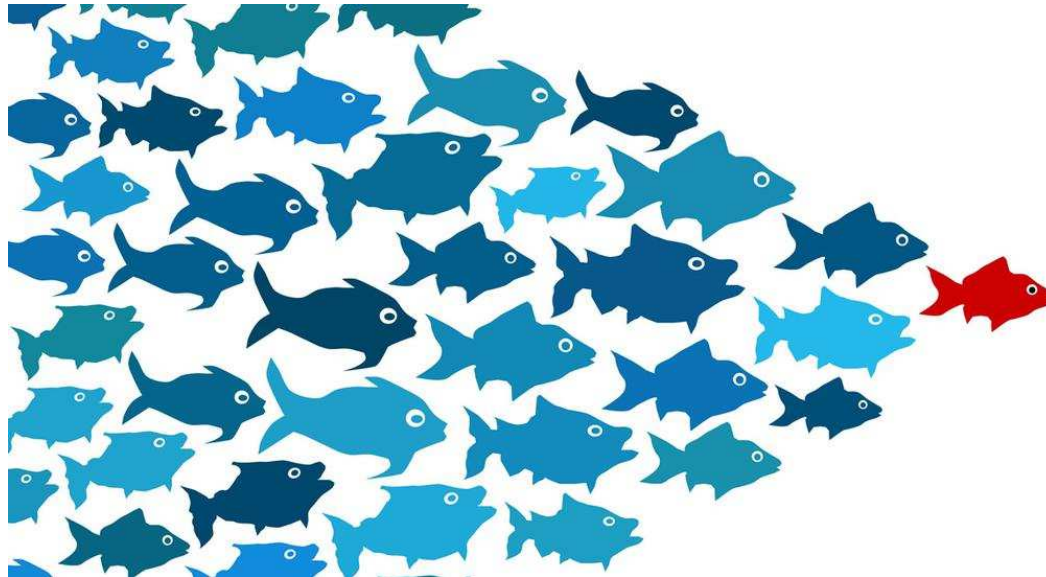
# Come up with a PLAN

- Enrichment Committee
- Who will participate
- When will enrichment be provided
- How to get 'buy-in'



# Leadership Person

Someone needs to be in charge of keeping the program going



# Set GOALS for Your Program

- **Every animal - Every day**
- Ensure staff involvement
- Recruit volunteer assistance



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society

# Every Animal - Every Day



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

# Ensure Staff Involvement

- EDUCATE about the importance
- ENCOURAGE creativity
- EMPOWER enthusiasm

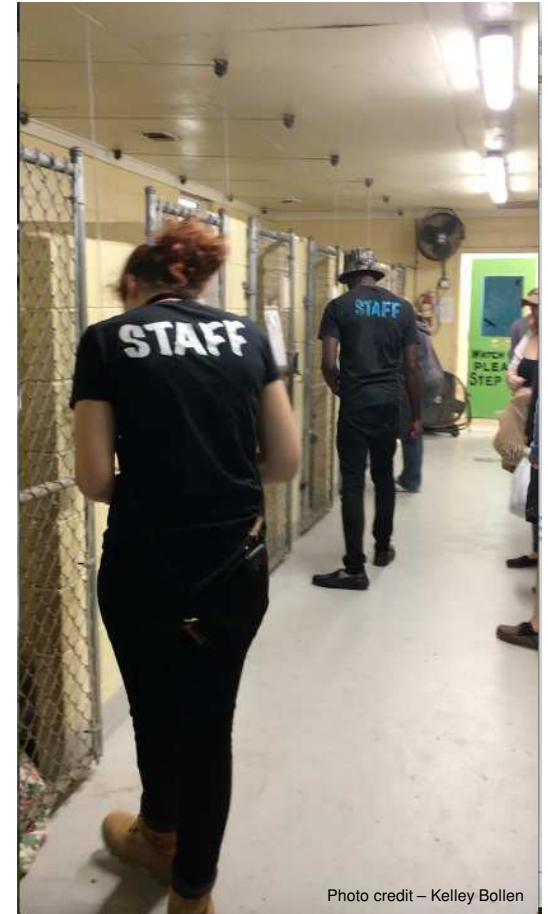


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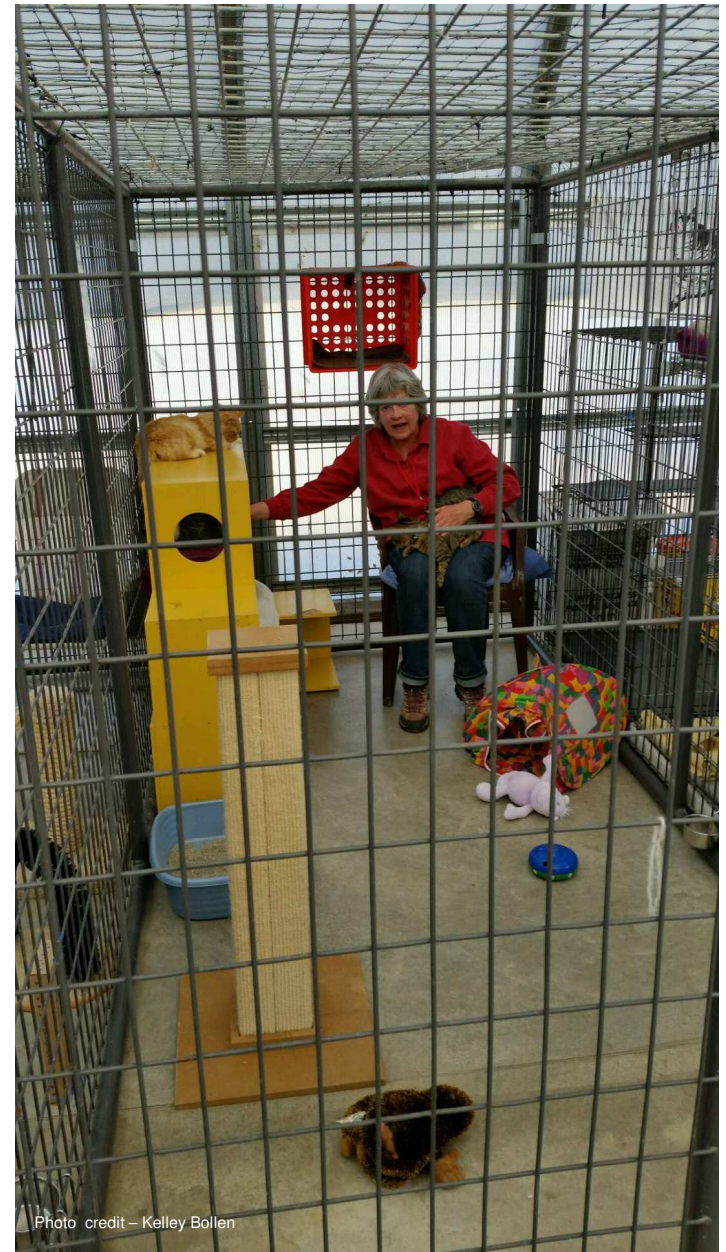
# Recruit Volunteer Assistance



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

# What do you NEED

- Staff time
- Volunteer help
- Supplies





# Create a LIST

- Enrichment ideas
- Supplies needed



# Roadblocks to Success



# MONEY is in Short Supply

## Small budget

- Toys, chew items, treats, etc.

## Free stuff

- Plastic containers, paper bags, cardboard boxes, etc.





# Solicit DONATIONS from Public



# TIME is of the Essence

- EASY to do
- Able to be done FAST
- Incorporate enrichment into daily routine (feeding, cleaning)



# Easy Access





# Easy Access



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

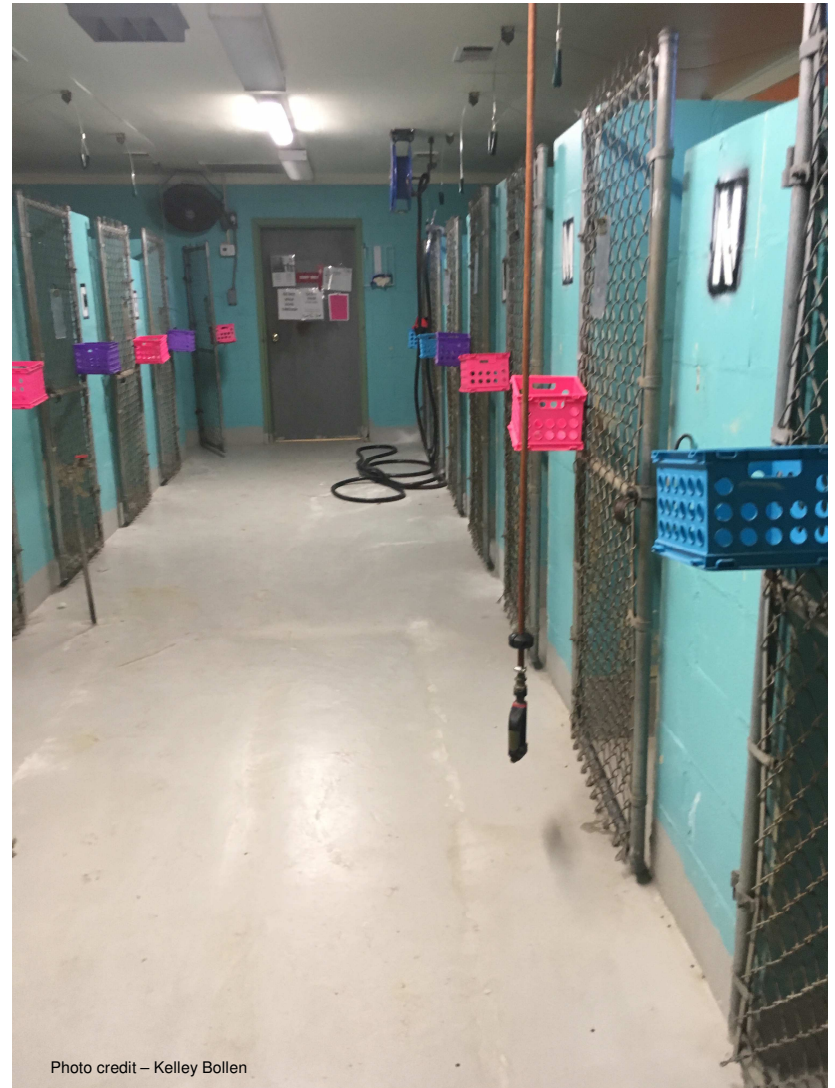


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# Keep it Organized



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



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# PREPARE Ahead of Time



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



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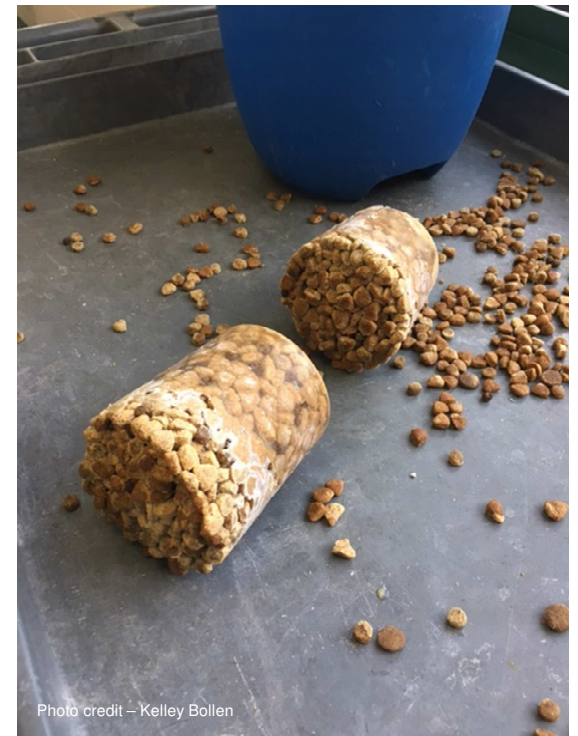
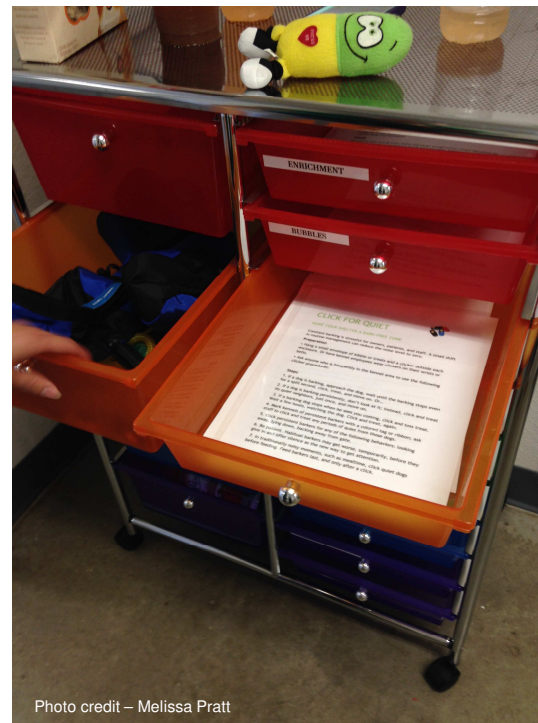


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# Incorporate into Daily Routine

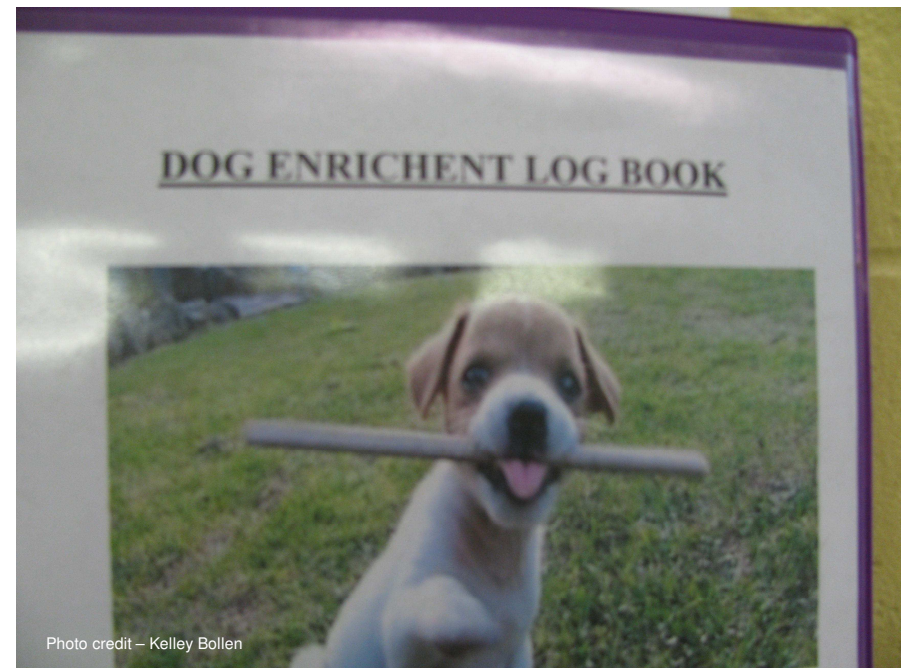
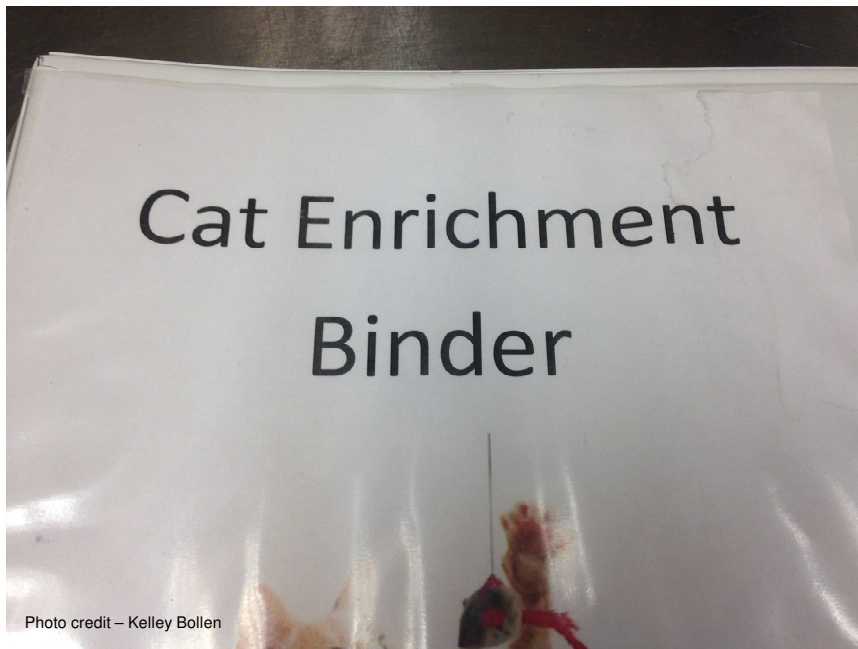
- Feed in feeder puzzles instead of bowls
- Play soothing music while you clean
- Add soft bedding to the cleaned cage
- Hand out toys or chew items after cage is clean
- Spray a scent before you leave the room
- On a walk – allow sniffing, ask for a sit, say hi to another dog, greet a new person, play for a bit.

# Make it Fun





# Keep Track - Enrichment Notebooks





# Ensures Variety

DATE	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<b>Meal in Kong/Feeder ball</b>								
<b>Radio - soothing music</b>								
<b>Olfactory Enrichment</b>								
Air Freshener spray								
Tracking Game								
Find It Game								
<b>Exercise</b>								
On-leash walks								
Aerobic (running)								
fetch								
chase games								
agility								
recall games								
<b>Social Contact (human)</b>								
sit quietly								
petting								
brushing								
massaging								
"do nothing"								
<b>Social (with other dogs)</b>								
play group								
<b>Clicker training</b>								
basic commands								
tricks								
impulse control								
free shaping games								

# Keep Track – Enrichment Boards



# Daily Check List for Each Kennel

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>KENNEL 58</b>	Yard Time: Scent (Lemon) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: Scent: (Vanil) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Alm) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: Scent (Lemon) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Vanil) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: Scent: (Alm) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Vanil) C4Q:1. 2. 3. Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:
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Photo credit - Kelley Bollen

# Tagging Cages



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



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# MONITOR your Program

- Critically important!
- Ensures that your efforts are benefiting the animals
- Include all 4 steps
  1. OBSERVE
  2. RECORD
  3. REVIEW
  4. ADJUST

# Assess on INDIVIDUAL Level



# Is the animal utilizing the enrichment?

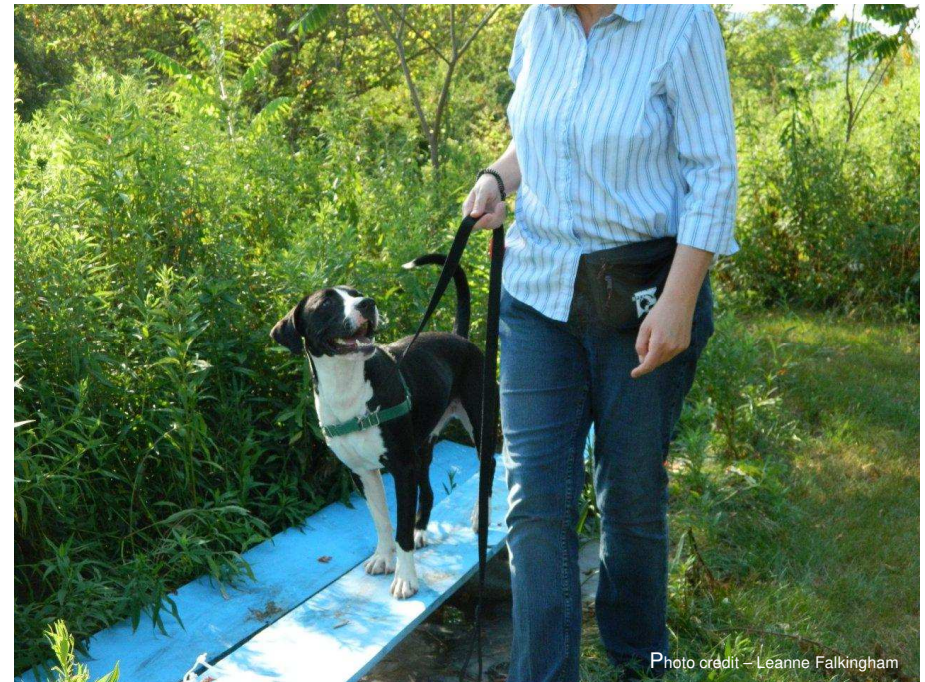


# Is the animal interacting with/responding to the enrichment in a positive manner?





# Is the animal exhibiting healthy social behavior with humans?





# Is the animal exhibiting healthy social behavior with conspecifics?





# How are the enrichment items and activities affecting the animals behavior?



# Is the enrichment unsafe or causing harm?



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



# Monitoring

Things to look for to ensure that the animals are well-adjusted and that their behavioral needs are being satisfied:

# Good Appetite



# Normal Activity Level

Not hyper-active



Not shut down





# Sociable with People





# Sociable with Other Animals



# Playing Well with Objects



# Normal Grooming Behaviors





# Restful Sleep





# Normal Species-Specific Behaviors in Appropriate Contexts



# Monitoring

Behavioral indicators of stress and a need for intervention:

# Poor Appetite





# Persistent Hiding or Retreat





# Hostile Interactions with People or Other Animals



# Reduced Activity



# Feigned Sleep



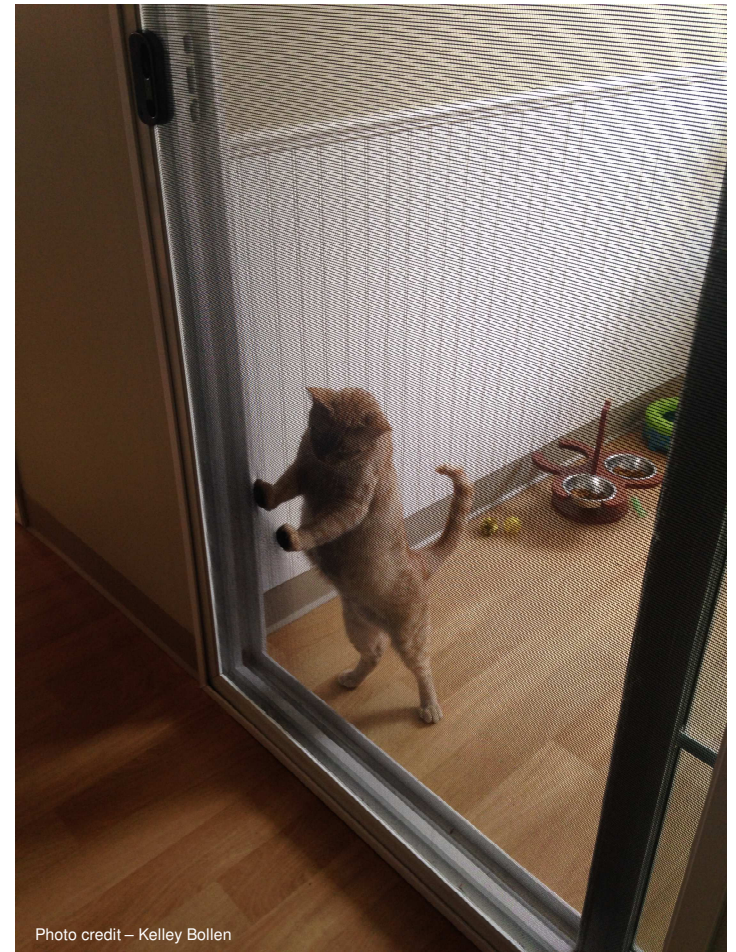
Video credit – Kelley Bollen



# Social Withdrawal



# Barrier Frustration





# Barrier Aggression





# Compulsive Behaviors

- Repetitive spinning, pacing, jumping,
- Patterned movements (stereotypies)
- Excessive, self-injurious grooming
- Excessive vocalizations

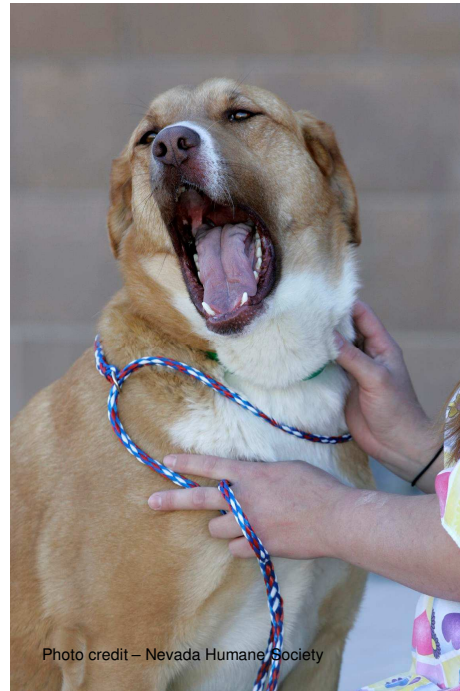


# Panting, Trembling



# Displacement Behaviors

- Stress signals
  - yawning
  - lip licking
  - tongue flicks





# Stress Signals to Look for



# Body Language Indicating Fear or Anxiety

- Tense muscles
- Crouched posture
- Wide eyes
- Flattened ears
- Tucked or lowered tail



# Assess on a PROGRAMATIC Level





# Is staff engaged and participating?



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society

# Are more volunteers needed?



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society



# Is supply chain adequate?



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

 Your  
donation  
is greatly  
appreciated



# Keep the assessment going!

- Schedule regular assessments
  - ✓ Individual level
  - ✓ Programmatic level
- Remember the 4 steps:
  1. OBSERVE
  2. RECORD
  3. REVIEW
  4. ADJUST

# Next Steps...

- What have you heard today that you want to put in place first?
- What barriers if any do you need to address?
- How will you monitor and assess?

# Questions??







# SAWA Best Practices Webinar Series: Animal Enrichment

[aspcapro.org/animal-enrichment-webinar-series](https://aspcapro.org/animal-enrichment-webinar-series)

- **Animal Enrichment Best Practices** (*recording*)
- **The 8 Components Every Animal Enrichment Program Should Have**  
Wednesday, February 7, 3-4 pm ET
- **Do Try This At Home: Cheap & Fun Enrichment Ideas for Shelters**  
Wednesday, February 21, 3-4:30 ET