



Animal Enrichment Best Practice Series

How to Plan & Track the Best Enrichment Program Ever



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



Photo credit – Humane Society of Boulder Valley



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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!



Photo credit – Humane Society of Boulder Valley

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.

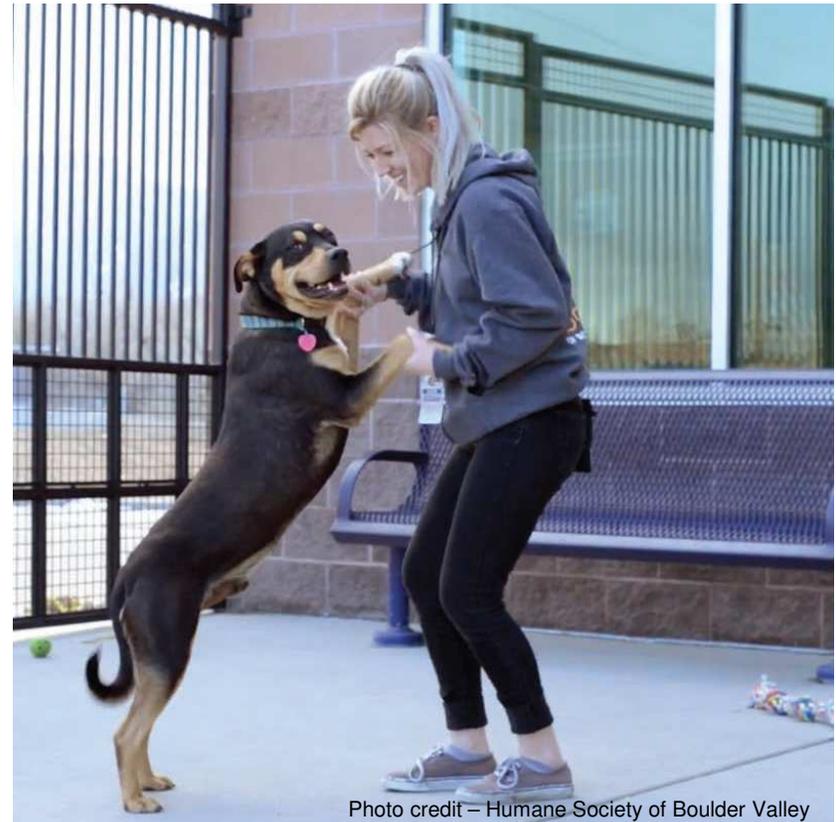


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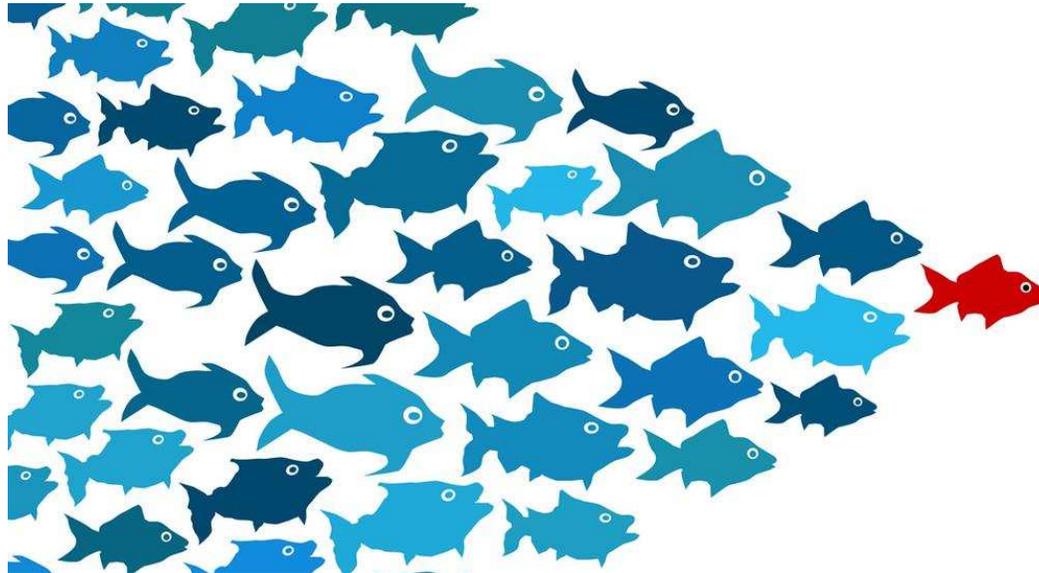
Come up with a PLAN

- 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



Recruit Volunteer Assistance



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

What do you **NEED**

- Staff time
- Volunteer help
- Supplies



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

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

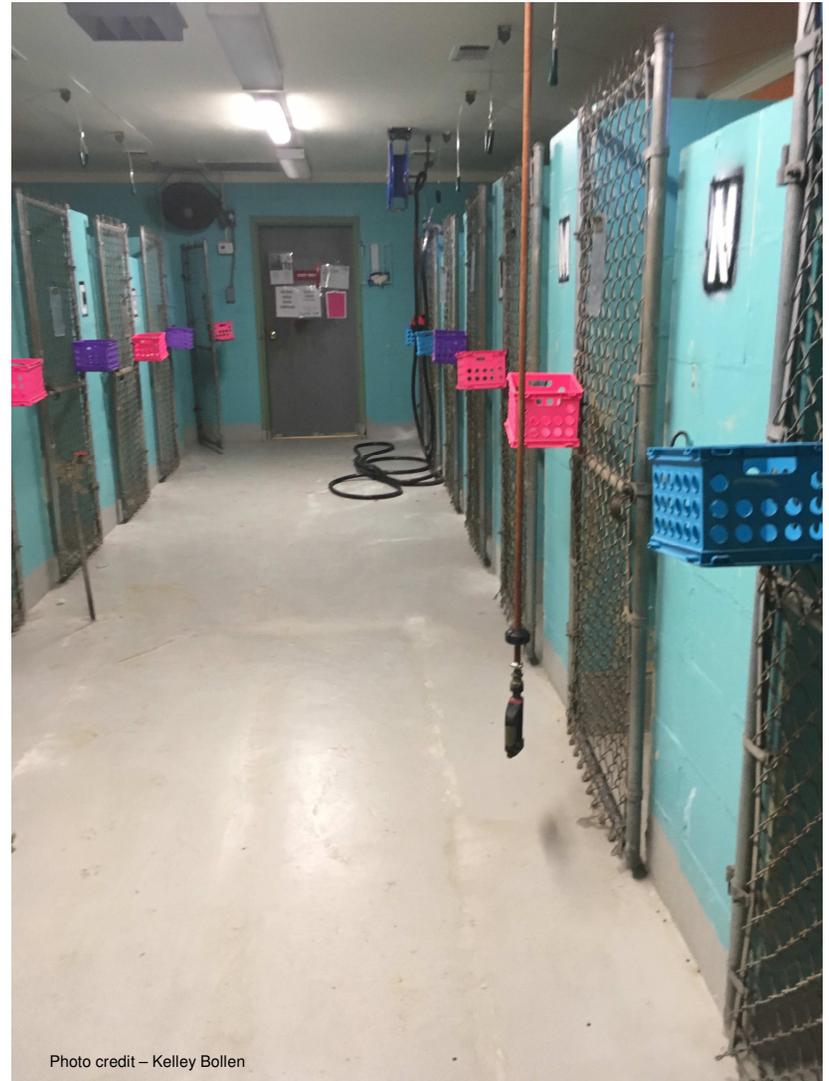
- EASY to do
- Able to be done FAST
- Incorporate enrichment into daily routine (feeding, cleaning)



Easy Access



Easy Access



Keep it Organized



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



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PREPARE Ahead of Time



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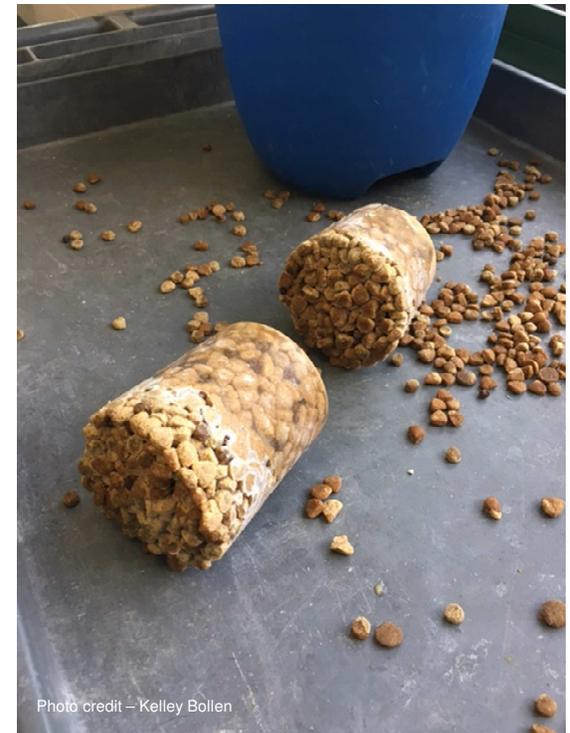
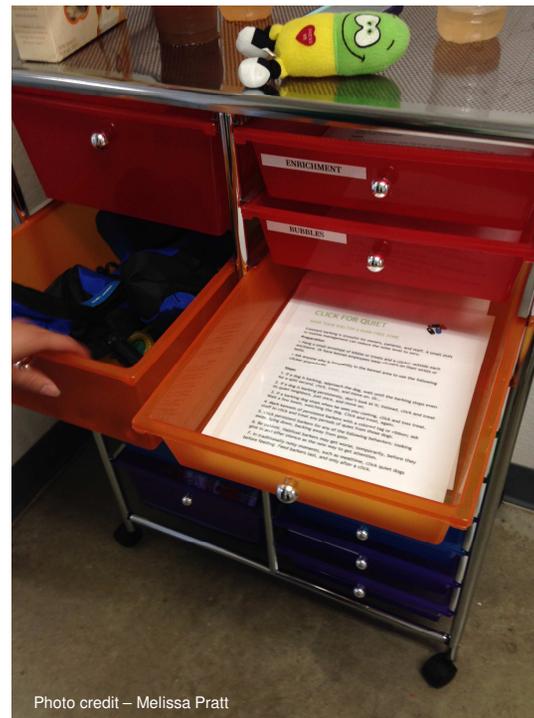


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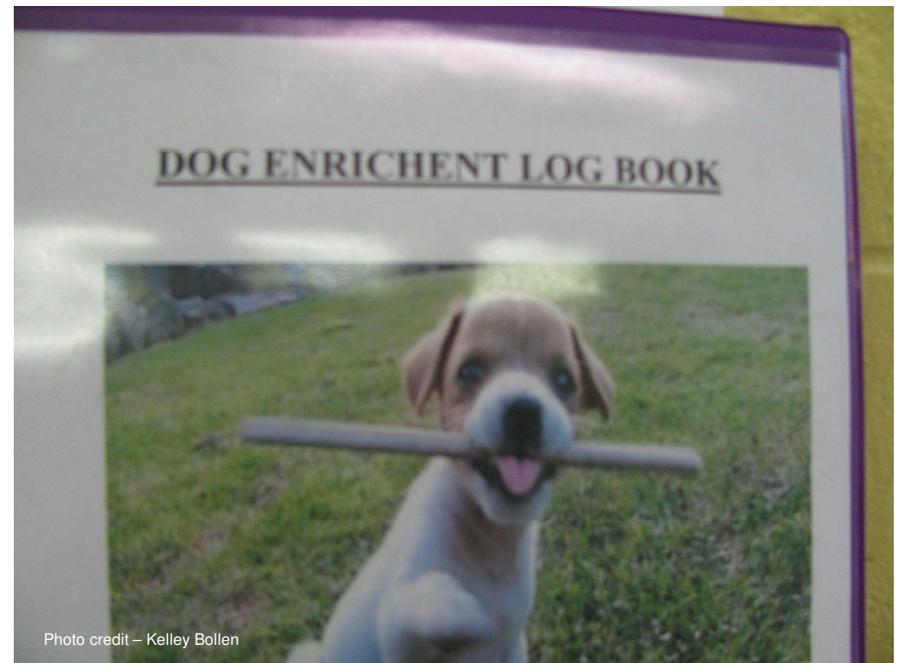
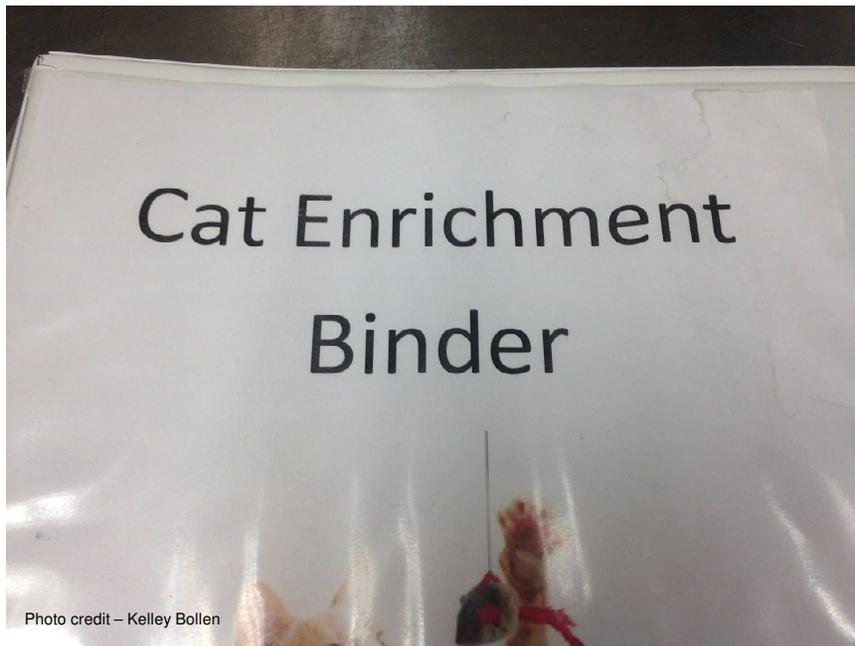
Incorporate into Daily Routine

- 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	
Meal in Kong/Feeder ball								
Radio - soothing music								
Olfactory Enrichment								
Air Freshener spray								
Tracking Game								
Find It Game								
Exercise								
On-leash walks								
Aerobic (running)								
fetch								
chase games								
agility								
recall games								
Social Contact (human)								
sit quietly								
petting								
brushing								
massaging								
"do nothing"								
Social (with other dogs)								
play group								
Clicker training								
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
KENNEL 58	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:
KENNEL 59	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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KENNEL 62	Yard Time: ✓ Scent (Lemon) ✓ Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: ✓ Scent: (Vanil) ✓ Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Alm) Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: Scent (Lemon) Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Vanil) Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:	Yard Time: Scent: (Alm) Frozen Treat: Frozen Food:	Yard Time: Scent: (Vanil) Frozen Treat: Wobble Kong:
KENNEL 63	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:
KENNEL 64	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:

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



Photo credit – Kelley Bollen



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Is the animal utilizing the enrichment?



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

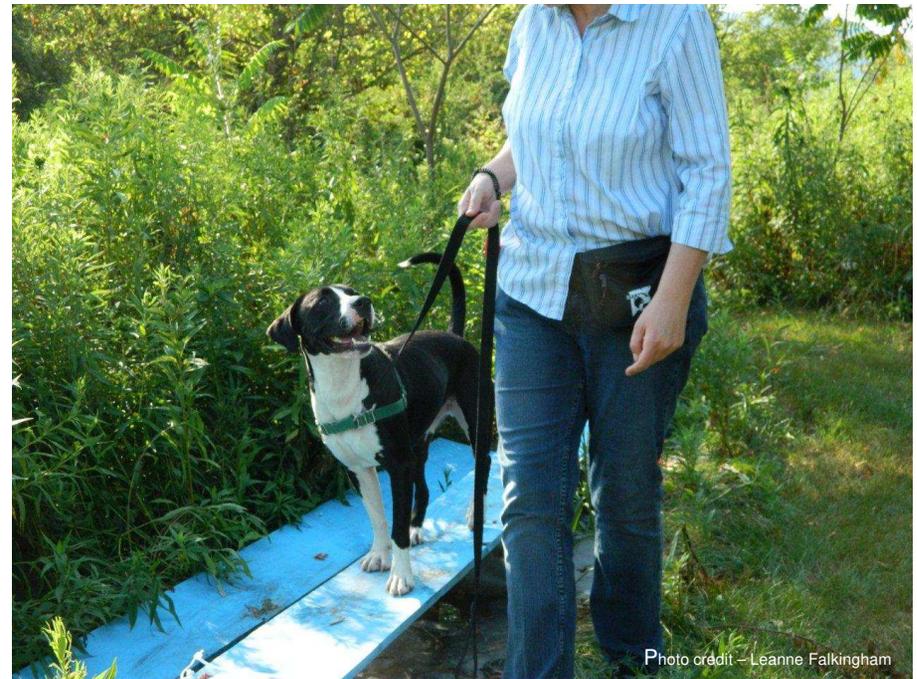


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Is the animal exhibiting healthy social behavior with humans?



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



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society

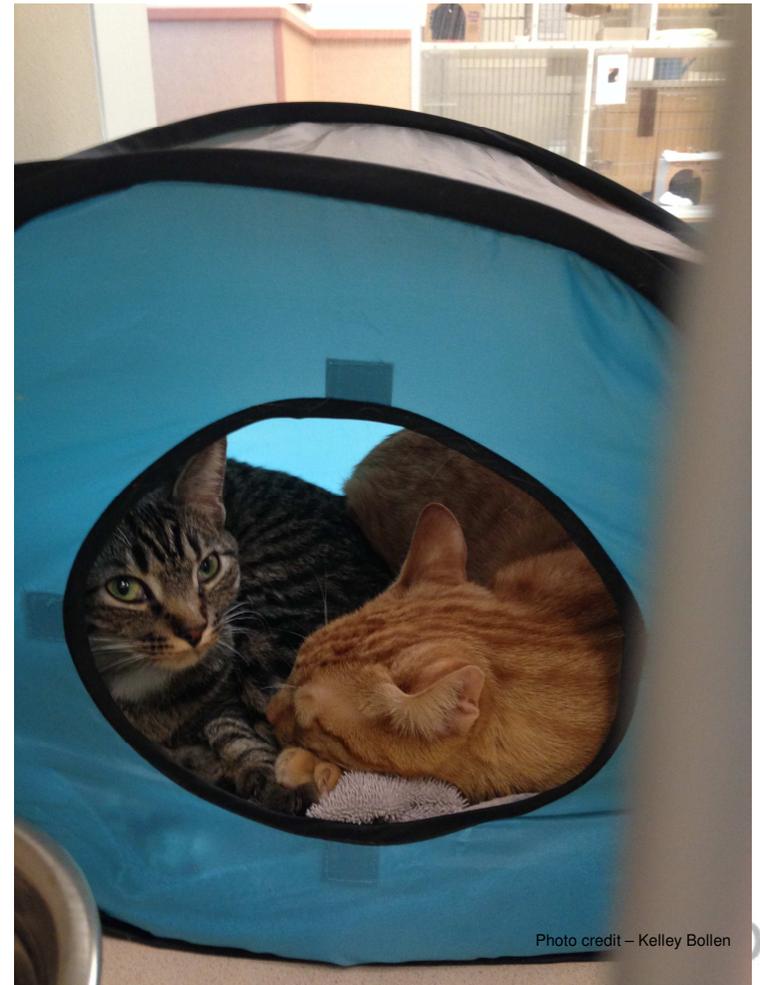


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Playing Well with Objects



Normal Grooming Behaviors



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society

Restful Sleep



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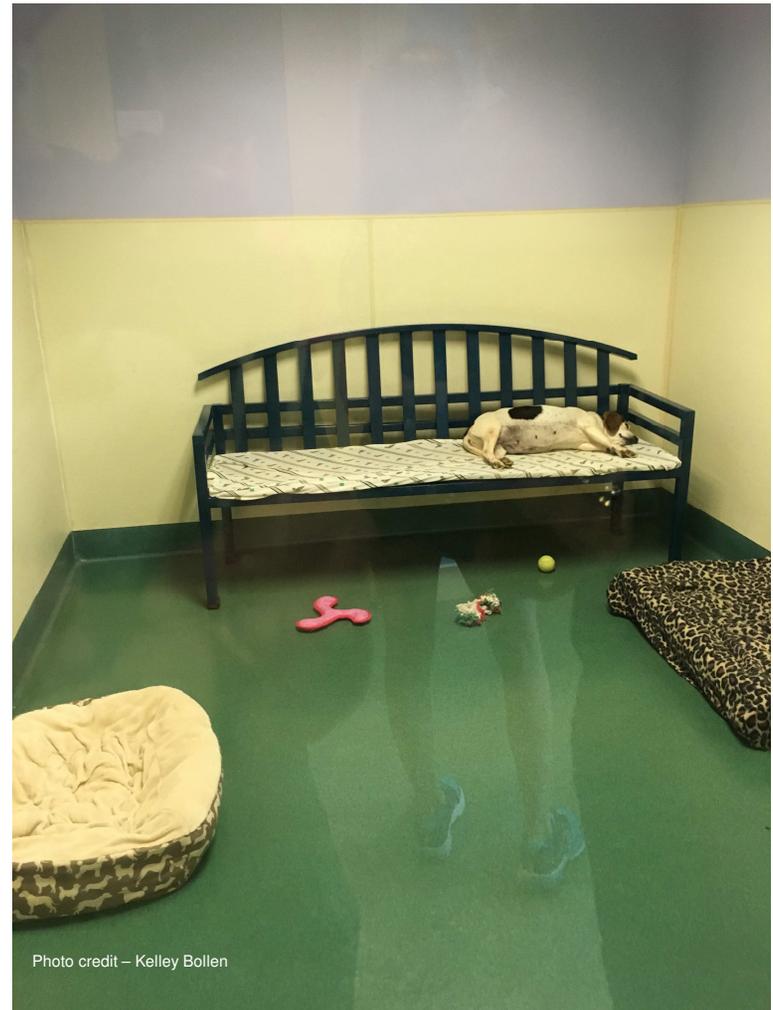


Photo credit – Kelley Bollen

Normal Species-Specific Behaviors in Appropriate Contexts



Monitoring

Behavioral indicators of stress and a need for intervention:

Poor Appetite



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Persistent Hiding or Retreat



Hostile Interactions with People or Other Animals



Reduced Activity



Feigned Sleep

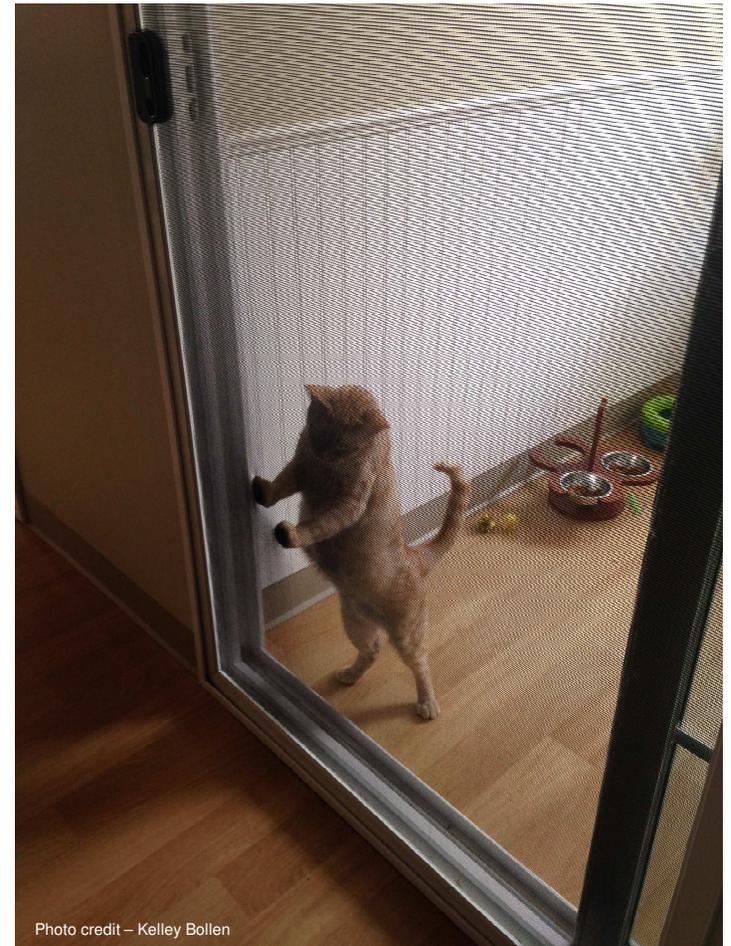


Video credit – Kelley Bollen

Social Withdrawal



Barrier Frustration



Barrier Aggression



Compulsive Behaviors

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



Photo credit – Nevada Humane Society

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



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

- **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