

FOOD DISPENSING TOYS

GOAL: To provide our dogs with enrichment when they are alone, and to teach dogs to enjoy eating their meals out of a Food Dispensing Toy (FDT) such as a Kibble Nibble, Stuffed Kong, PVC pipe FDT, Kong, Wobbler etc. This form of enrichment allows the dog to work for their food by pushing the FDT around on the ground to get the food to fall out. The best FDTs are toys that the dog does not destroy and are easy to clean and sanitize after each use.

INITIAL INTRODUCTION OF FDT:

- Do not disturb the dog while eating meals from a bowl for at least the first 2-3 meals.
- Closely monitor and record the dog's appetite on the Canine Enrichment Chronicle
- Once you have determined that the dog enjoys eating meals, give the dog the easiest type of FDT, usually a handmade PVC FDT. Feed this to the dog at mealtime in place of their usual meal.

NOTE: Do not use FDTs with dogs that have a history of food aggression (food, rawhides, pig's ear, etc.) unless approved by the behavior department.

RECORDING CONSUMPTION:

- During morning cleaning, staff remove the toy from the kennel and record food consumption on the Canine Enrichment Chronicle.
 - A (all)
 - S (for some)
 - 0 (zero for none)

CONTINUING FEEDINGS:

- If the dog enjoys FDTs, the dog should receive one AT LEAST once daily, for as long as they are in the shelter.
- Consider a more challenging FDT as a dog gets skilled at eating meals out of them.
- ALWAYS monitor the dog's consumption of food from the FDT.

(recipes on next page)

RECIPES

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PVC FOOD DISPENSING TOY:

Give them a mix of dry with some wet food mixed into it very lightly so it doesn't stick to the toy. Fill the bottom with Dry Kibble, middle with a small amount of the wet/dry mix and fill the remainder with dry kibble.

KIBBLE NIBBLE FOOD DISPENSING TOY:

Mix in a very small amount of dry/wet mix and the rest is all dry kibble.

STUFFED KONG:

This is the best for wet/dry mix and is more challenging than the PVC and Kibble Nibble. Fill the bottom half with dry kibble and the top half with a dry/wet mix and then coat the opening with wet only to entice licking. Note that you will be unable to put an entire meal into a stuffed Kong, so you will need to provide multiple Kongs at mealtimes.

KONG WOBBLER:

Dry kibble only and the smaller the better. This is a more challenging FDT; use only after the dog is consistently and easily eating out of the easier FDT's.

