

DIY Dog Enrichment Ideas

Dog enrichment provides important physical and mental stimulation for dogs' senses. Enrichment makes dogs happier and reduces stress while also sharpening their minds.

Denim/Fabric Dog Toys

Supply list:

Old clothes or fabric (denim, flannel, or fleece work well)

Scissors



Instructions:

Cut fabric into long strips such as full length of an adult jeans leg (2-4" inches wide depending on fabric weight).

For braided toys:

Knot the ends of three strips together, make a braid and leave several inches to tie a knot at the other end. Then tighten the knots so the braid is secure.

For simple knot toys:

Tie one end of a wide strip in an overhand knot, then knot the other end. Then loop the ends together so there is a knot in the middle, evenly spaced from the knots on either end.

Note: Look for a nearby textile recycling location so that you can recycle any leftover fabric scraps.

Adapted from Sew Historically blog:

<http://www.sewhistorically.com/22-diy-denim-dog-toys-recycled-from-old-jeans/>

PVC Dog Wash (approximately 30" W x 40" L x 30" H)

Supply list:

(1) 3/4" brass one-way restricted flow water shut-off

(1) 3/4" x 3/4" hose swivel adapter PVC fitting

(8) 3/4" PVC 3 way elbows

(3) 3/4" PVC tees

3/4" PVC cut to:

(6) 30"

(4) 14.5"

(4) 40"

(1) 36.5"

(2) 2.25"

1/16" drill bit for holes

Power drill

Miter saw

Sand paper

Marker

Measuring tape



Instructions:

Once all the PVC is cut to size, dry assemble the dog wash to ensure everything fits and nothing is too large or too small. Make any necessary cut revisions and sand all cut ends smooth. Take the hose adapter and test it to make sure it connects to the PVC and the hose water source. Once everything fits properly, disassemble it.

Take the three long top pieces, measure and mark dots 3 inches from each edge and 2 inches apart after that on each. Drill the holes on the marks taking care not to go through the opposite side. Assemble the full dog wash and test with the hose.

Note: The dog wash can be disassembled for easy storage when not in use.

Adapted from DIY Outdoor Dog Shower by DIY Creators:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-Tcg9TReyk>

PVC Bottle Puzzle Stand

Supply list:

(2) 3/4" tees

(6) 3/4" elbows

(3) large plastic drink bottles of various shapes, cut off rings and remove labels

3/4" PVC cut to:

(6) 12"

(3) 20"

Miter saw

Masking tape

Scissors

Measuring tape



Instructions:

Once the PVC is cut to size, assemble it to make sure everything fits. Fix any issues. Sand the cut ends smooth.

Then mark the spaces on your bottles where you plan to cut holes in them (about two thirds up) and cover the areas with masking tape for more durability. Once the holes allow the bottle to spin freely on the PVC, remove the tape and assemble the stand.

Put kibble or treats in the bottles for the dogs to work to get out.

Adapted from Easy No Glue PVC Dog Bottle Puzzle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL_oEfqkbo

PVC Treat Tubes (makes 12 tubes)

Supply list:

- (1) 10' [2"] PVC cut to 10" pieces
- (12) 2" PVC slip caps
- (12) 2" PVC female internal threaded slip adapters
- (12) 2" PVC male external threaded caps
- 1/2" drill bit for holes
- Power drill
- Miter saw
- Sand paper
- Rat tail file
- Marker
- Measuring tape



Instructions:

Once PVC is cut to size, sand the cut ends smooth. Mark and then drill 4-5 holes on each tube, and once completed, sand the insides of the holes with a rat tail file. (A screwdriver wrapped in sandpaper can substitute for the rat tail file.) Afterwards, rinse out the insides of the tubes. When dry, assemble the treat tubes.

Put kibble or treats in the tubes for the dogs to work to get out.

Note: One end of each treat tube unscrews for easy filling and cleaning.

Adapted from Impact Dog Crates blog:

<https://www.impactdogcrates.com/blogs/puppy-news/diy-dog-puzzles>