

# Enriching your dog's world!

Dogs interact with the world just like us humans, they use their five senses: sight, touch, taste, smell and sound.

Like people, your dog has different needs and preferences, it is up to you to find out what your dog likes and provide more of it. I mean, we all enjoy things that we like, our dogs are no different.

Find out what your dog prefers, and then provide enrichment to meet their needs.

Enriching their senses:



## Sight

- Add a different object to their environment everyday:
  - A cardboard box.
  - An item of clothing.
  - A stuffed toy.
- Can you provide a viewing access for your dog?
- A bubble machine – with beef flavoured bubbles.
- Balloon.
- Leave the TV on.
- Automatic ball thrower.
- Chasing flirt poles.



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## Touch

- Walking them in different environments:
  - In puddles.
  - Near water.
  - Sand.
  - Pavement.
  - Mud.
  - Steps.
  - Ramps and so on.
- Massage such as [T Touch massage](https://www.ttouchaustralia.com.au/companimals)  
<https://www.ttouchaustralia.com.au/companimals>
- Adding homemade 'agility' equipment in your back yard  
<https://www.hillspet.com.au/dog-care/training/diy-dog-obstacle-course>
- Filling a kid's pool with:
  - Dirt.
  - Water.
  - Leaves.
  - Plastic balls, containers.
- Offer different toy textures:
  - Soft.
  - Hard.
  - Crinkly.
  - Rigid.
- Grooming session.
- Attach a broom head to a pole so the dog can rub against it.



## Taste

- Long lasting chews:
  - Bull chews.
  - Antlers.
  - Horns.
  - Plus more.
- Different types of food.
- Frozen ice blocks with their favourite treats in there.
- Food dispensing toys  
[https://www.impactdogcrates.com/blogs/puppy-news/diy-dog-puzzles?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=3d1425a17&\\_ss=r](https://www.impactdogcrates.com/blogs/puppy-news/diy-dog-puzzles?_pos=1&_sid=3d1425a17&_ss=r)
- Lick plates.
- Scatter food.



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## Smell

- For dogs, the sense of smell is their favourite, because it's their strongest.
- They don't have to enjoy every single scent, just experience it.
- Introduce different scents in your dog's environment.
- Place various scents on cotton swabs in jars with vented lids.
- Use essential oils, spices, flowers, etc.
- Rub cloths over different animals, place them in boxes allowing your dog to smell and investigate.
- Spray deodorants, perfumes around the backyard.
- Smear food around the back yard for the dog to find and lick.
- Create a scent garden <https://www.australiandoglover.com/2018/12/how-to-create-sensory-garden-for-your.html>.
- Allow dogs to smell when out on a walk.

## Sound

- Soft classical music.
- Traffic.
- Through a dog's ear <https://icalmpet.com/product/through-a-dogs-ear-book-plus-starter-cd/>

**Silence, this is probably one sound we seem to neglect. We need to help our dogs to understand that silence is ok and it's safe.**



**Remember to rotate your dog's activities and provide more of what they enjoy.**