

CREATING HAPPY HOMES

Environmental Enrichment & Independent Play

Teaching your puppy how to play independently and be relaxed when alone lays the building blocks for a confident happy dog.



MAYFIELD VETERINARY HOSPITAL



By creating a fun, interesting and stimulating environment your puppy will not need to search for their own fun, which may result in the form of destruction, barking or escaping. Further to this, some puppies may become stressed when left alone and may develop long term behavioural problems. If you feel your puppy is stressed when left alone please speak to your Veterinarian.

Tips for creating an interesting environment and encouraging independent play:

- 🔑 Consider what's best for your puppy's individual needs and ensure their safety.
- 🐾 Some puppies love soft toys to snuggle while others love soft toys to destroy!
- 🔑 Have a variety of toys that are safe, durable and cannot be swallowed such as balls, chew toys, tug ropes and puzzle feeders.

- 🔑 Rotate your puppy's toys frequently to keep them engaged.
- 🔑 If space allows, have a child's clam with an inch of water or sandpit to encourage location appropriate splashing and digging.
- 🐾 Please ensure your puppy's safety; never leave them alone with a body of water.
- 🔑 Use food and ice to enhance the experience. Making puppy ice blocks in summer provides enrichment and a way to stay cool.
- 🔑 Play with your puppy to show them how to use the toys.
- 🐾 Include interactive toys to encourage playtime between you and your puppy. This can double as a fun training session.



CREATING A FUN AND INTERESTING ENVIRONMENT IS KEY TO DEVELOPING A HAPPY DOG AND KEEPING YOUR BACKYARD INTACT.