



**DORSET  
PAWS &  
SNORES**

## **Environmental Enrichment Programme**

### **1. Programme Overview**

This Environmental Enrichment Programme outlines the procedures and activities implemented within the home boarding environment to ensure that all dogs receive continuous mental stimulation, physical enrichment, social interaction, and behavioural support.

This programme covers enrichment inside the home and in any outside areas used by boarded dogs.

The programme has been designed to support welfare standards and will be shared with and agreed upon by each dog's owner prior to boarding.

### **2. Aims of the Programme**

To promote natural canine behaviours, including sniffing, exploring, playing and social interaction.

To reduce stress, boredom and anxiety during boarding.

To provide consistent, positive daily stimulation.

To ensure that grooming, socialisation, and safe play form part of the dog's daily routine.

To tailor enrichment to each dog's age, temperament, physical ability and owner preferences.

### **3. Indoor Enrichment Activities**

#### **3.1 Mental & Sensory Enrichment**

Snuffle mats and scent-based games (e.g., hidden treats).

Puzzle toys, lick mats and slow feeders where appropriate.

Rotating toy selection to maintain interest.

Calm, comfortable resting areas to support emotional wellbeing.

#### **3.2 Social Enrichment**

Positive interaction with me throughout the day.

Mat settling, calm encouragement, and gentle handling.

Optional interaction with other compatible boarded dogs (owner agreement required).

#### **3.3 Structured Play**

Indoor ball or soft toy fetch (space and safety permitting).

Tug toys (only with dogs who enjoy and safely tolerate this).

Gentle indoor training games such as "find it," recall practice, or name recognition.

### 3.4 Grooming & Handling

Daily gentle brushing where appropriate for the dog's coat type.

Wiping paws and checking for debris after outdoor sessions.

Positive-reinforcement based handling (touch desensitisation, reward-based grooming).

## 4. Outdoor Enrichment Activities

### 4.1 Physical Exercise

Walks tailored to the dog's age, breed, ability and owner preferences.

Opportunities for sniffing and exploring in natural environments.

Lead walking, long-line exploration or garden free-roaming.

### 4.2 Socialisation Opportunities

(Always with owner approval and after temperament assessment)

Exposure to everyday outdoor sounds and sights in a calm, controlled manner.

Potential meeting of friendly, vaccinated dogs during walks where safe and appropriate.

Continued support for puppies or anxious dogs using positive experiences only.

### 4.3 Outdoor Play

Garden play sessions:

Fetch

Tug

Agility equipment

Chase/recall games

Enrichment scatter feeding

Weather-appropriate outdoor time (with shade and water available).

### 4.4 Grooming & Maintenance After Outdoor Activity

Coat brushing (if required).

Paw checks and cleaning.

Tick/grass seed checks.

Drying with towels if wet or muddy.

## 5. Behaviour Monitoring and Individual Adaptation

Daily observation logs are kept for each dog, tracking mood, appetite, toileting, activity engagement and any behavioural changes.

Enrichment is adapted for:

Senior dogs

Dogs with medical limitations

Puppies

Nervous or anxious dogs

Any behavioural concerns are communicated to the owner promptly.

## **6. Owner Agreement**

Prior to boarding, owners will review and agree to the enrichment plan. Adjustments will be made to accommodate:

Dog-specific likes/dislikes

Exercise limits

Any grooming requirements

Socialisation preferences

Play restrictions

Training goals (if any)

**Owner Name:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**