

Enrichment Activities for Heartworm Positive Dogs

Avoid excited play, if you are engaging with your dog and you find that they are getting excited, then try something more calming. Some dogs get excited when there are treats involved.

Smell

A sniffari: use a long lead and allow your dog to sniff in the yard. You can also toss treats in the yard for them to find in the grass.

A snufflemat: toss some treats in a mat and have your dog search for the treats.

A dog enrichment box: fill a box with toys, a puzzle toy or two, a towel with treats rolled up in it, crumpled paper, and smaller boxes, then toss a variety of treats in and let your dog explore.

An herb garden: try planting an herb garden for you and your dog to enjoy. Use dog safe herbs, like sage, parsley, fennel, oregano, basil and/or thyme.



snufflemat



Dog enrichment box



The Cup Game

Chewing, licking, and tasting

Try new Kong recipes.

A lick mat

Use a slow feeder for meal time.

Try different chews: such as a Nylabone Durachew, Bullystick, or a Himalayan cheese chew.

Quiet time

Spend time snuggling with your dog.

Give your dog a massage.

Read to your dog.

Cognitive activities

(If you find that your dog is getting too excited, then find something else to do.)

A puzzle toy: Nina Ottosson by Outward Hound has some great puzzles. You can also make your own.

The Cup Game: teach your dog to find which cup has the treats.

The Name Game: teach your dog the name of their toys.

Training time

(If you find that your dog is getting too excited, then find something else to do.)

Teach your dog some skills: work on skills that do not require a lot of movement; like touch, focus, leave it, drop it, sit, or stay.