

Checklist for Incredible, Full Scope Enrichment in your Animal Shelter –

There are lots of things to consider when planning and implementing shelter enrichment programs which can feel overwhelming. Here is a checklist to help you get started (we'll go into more detail during the presentation – not to worry! – and we're also happy to provide this as a Word document for editing – just ask!):

- Determine your Capacity for Care (C4C)
 - Calculate your monthly magic number
 - Apply the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare
- Optimize length of stay (LOS)
 - Determine and work to remove barriers/bottlenecks to animal flow and outcome
 - Decrease load
 - Increase capacity
- Perform daily welfare/population rounds
 - Routine monitoring performed by animal care staff
 - The Rounds team should include folks with decision making capabilities such as:
 - shelter/operations manager
 - medical representative
 - behavior representative
 - foster coordinator
 - outcomes manager
 - intake manager
 - Make observations on health and behavior to determine if intervention is necessary
 - Create an action list to keep animals moving
 - Set dates for re-evaluation of animals whose care/pathway is modified
- Evaluate Housing
 - Are cages/runs being used as double sided?
 - All portals open?
 - Guillotines open 24/7? Only during certain hours?
 - What needs to change if housing is not being used this way?
 - How much choice is provided in the housing unit?
 - Ability to hide
 - Different surfaces
 - Different levels
 - Spot cleaning/bedding changes
 - Is housing 80% full most of the time?
- Cats – In kennel enrichment
 - Hiding

- Scratching surface
- Different “levels” available
- Toys
- ☐ Cats – Out of kennel enrichment
 - Group housing
 - Secure outdoor play spaces
 - Laser pointers
- ☐ Dogs - In kennel enrichment
 - Quiet hour
 - Toys
 - Opportunity to chew:
 - Beef long bones or knuckles ok (no small bones, ribs or poultry bones)
 - Cow ears ok (no pig ears)
 - Rawhide chews only when supervised
 - Frozen Kongs
- ☐ Dogs - Out of kennel enrichment
 - Walks in the shelter’s neighborhood
 - Playgroups
 - Quiet time with a person
 - Off-site outings:
 - Outings around town
 - Puppaccinos
 - Avoid dog parks
 - Trail hikes/walks
 - Sleepovers
 - Tips for off-site outings:
 - Works best with trained fosters, volunteers or shelter employees
 - Humans should wear shelter logo t-shirt, sweatshirts or caps
 - Dogs should wear shelter logo bandanas, vests or t-shirts too!