

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Join the Fun: Volunteer for NHS's Daily Canine Enrichment Program!

Goal: To expand on the work that volunteers Glenda Von Arb and Cindy Clark have been doing! They work along with the staff to enrich the shelter experience for animals waiting for homes.

We will start with dogs. Our cats have very stimulating areas with open rooms and outdoor catteries and lots of toys – you can never have too many toys! Dogs are usually isolated from one another except when they are part of a play group.

Are you passionate about dogs? Do you want to make a real difference in their lives? The Northwoods Humane Society (NHS) is excited to announce our new Daily Canine Enrichment Program, and we need YOUR help to make it a success!

What We Need:

Puzzle Assemblers: Help put together engaging food puzzles each week. It's fun, creative, and rewarding! It is something you can do at home by yourself or with friends and family.

Supplies needed: Small metal bowls, muffin tins, empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls rope toys, Kongs, treat balls, lick mats, snuffle mats, peanut butter, frozen berries of all kind, bananas, dog treats of all kinds, cucumbers, carrots, apples, canned pumpkin, watermelon, cantaloupe broccoli. We are also in need of a stand up freezer in very good condition.

What is Dog Enrichment? ‘Enrichment’ refers to enhancing an animal’s quality of life by making their environment more complex and dynamic, providing both mental and physical stimulation. For dogs, this includes activities that mimic their natural behaviors, like hunting for food, stimulating their senses, and offering a variety of experiences. Enrichment is vital for allowing dogs the freedom to express natural behavior, often leading to happier, healthier animals.

Why is Canine Enrichment Important?

Imagine a chimpanzee in a zoo: a bare, circular cage with a dirt floor isn't natural and doesn't stimulate the animal, leading to boredom and frustration. Add some plants, a climbing frame, hidden fruits, and fellow chimps, and you have a happier, more relaxed animal. The same concept applies to **our canine friends**.

Here’s how we can enrich their lives:

Food Puzzles: In the wild, wolves spend much of their day hunting and foraging for food. For domestic dogs, food puzzles and treat balls are fantastic ways to simulate this natural behavior, **keeping their brains active and engaged.**

Sniff Time: A dog’s nose is a crucial sense organ, and sniffing is their way of understanding the world. Allowing dogs to take their time to sniff during walks (a ‘sniffari’) is excellent for their mental health.

Novelty in Toys: Just like kids, dogs get bored with the same toys. Rotating their toys and introducing new ones keeps them engaged and excited.

Interactive Games: Playing games like Hide and Seek, Find the Treat, and Tug of War provides essential social interaction and mental stimulation. Enrolling in activities like Agility or Nosework can also be beneficial.

Tailored Activities: Consider your dog's age, interests, and physical abilities when planning enrichment activities. Customize their experience to keep them happy and engaged. By joining our Canine Enrichment Program, you'll be helping to create a stimulating and fun environment for the dogs at NHS. Your contributions of time, supplies, or both will go a long way in making a difference.

Ready to volunteer or donate supplies? Contact the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter at 715-634-5394 or e-mail paws@northwoodshumanesociety.org and a volunteer or staff member will be in touch with you. Together, we can ensure that every dog at NHS enjoys a fulfilling and enriched life! Let's make a paw-sitive impact – one puzzle at a time!

Dates to Save: August 5 – Monday – NHS Tag Day - 9 am to 5 p.m.

August 30 – Friday – Bark and Roll with Cat's Meow Silent Auction – Seeley Sawymill Saloon – 6:30 p.m. Tickets now on sale at NHS Thrift shop, NHS Shelter, Art Beat of Hayward and Redbery Books in Cable. This is our major fundraiser for the summer!