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## What is a Snuffle Mat?

There are so many great uses for a snuffle mat that we feel every pet parent should have at least one in their house! They can help with slow feeding, mental enrichment or pets recovering from surgery (be sure to check with your vet first).

## Does my pet really need mental enrichment?

Enrichment is a term that refers to anything that adds value, significance or "anything desirable" to life. Enrichment includes a change in scenery, toys, new scents, social interactions, and any kind of mental stimulation. Pet enrichment can include training sessions, going for a walk, playtime with you or another pet, toys, food treats, or even having the radio or TV on for auditory stimulation. In the zoo community, enrichment is a huge component to working with exotic animals in captivity. And, thanks to the zoo community and their push for enrichment research, pet trainers and behaviorists have a deeper understanding of the consequences of bored animals and the benefits that enrichment can provide.



# Snuffle Mat

*Mental enrichment for your pet*



## There are many reasons to use a snuffle mat.

### FEEDING/EATING

- For our kibble fed friends, a snuffle mat can help to slow them down at meal time so they don't eat their food too fast ingesting air and can help in the prevention of bloat.
- A snuffle mat can also help to entice a pet who may be unsure of eating out of traditional plastic/metal bowls and allowing other methods of feeding, making feeding time a lot more fun and mentally stimulating.

### SEPARATION ANXIETY

- A tired pet = a sleepy pet. If your pet suffers from separation anxiety, try giving them a snuffle mat before you leave. Once they have found all the treats/food they will be too sleepy to realize you are gone.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Snow storms, freezing temperatures, rain, even extreme heat make it impossible to give our pets the exercise they require. A snuffle mat can help with this by allowing them to work on their brain & nose skills as mental stimulation will tire them out in place of physical stimulation.

### SENIOR OR RECOVERING PETS

- For older pets who are not as mobile as they once were or have trouble eating out of a bowl, the snuffle mat is flat and closer to the ground. If they have trouble bending down to eat their food, the mat can be placed on a box or small table to help alleviate the strain on their bodies.
- Pets recovering from surgery or restricted on the amount of exercise they can do, the snuffle mat is great as it provides mental stimulation without the physical requirement.

**\*Disclaimer: Please consult with your veterinarian prior to the use of a snuffle mat for recovering/restricted pets.**

### BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/TRAINING

- Use the snuffle mat to help distract your pet when introducing them to new environments, sights or smells. It will help them not to focus on the anxiety causing noises.
- Assists with crate training by making crate time = fun time!
- When you have company over to your house, give the pet a snuffle mat in a separate safe area for them to be able to settle down and not be anxious around the new people in the home.

### GENERAL USES

- Help acclimate your puppy/pet to the car by allowing them to use the snuffle mat while on car rides.
- Keep your pet focused on something constructive for them rather than destructive for you.
- Encourages their natural instinct to sniff/forage for their food,

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### CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- A snuffle mat should be hand washed (Machine washable on gentle cycle) to ensure longevity, a mild detergent can be used if the mat becomes really slobbery and gross.
  - Allow the mat to air dry and once dry, flip upside down and shake to refluff.
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## How do I use a snuffle mat?

- 1. When you first receive your snuffle mat, it may be a bit flattened due to the shipping process. Instantly bring it back to life by turning it upside down and giving it a good shake side to side, This is also a good way to check to make sure you pet has found all the treats you hid in the mat!**
- 2. Dry treats or kibble work best in the mat. Take a handful of the treats/kibble and sprinkle them over the mat. Initially, make it easier for your pet by placing them right on top. As your pet learns how to use the snuffle mat, you can bury them further into the flaps of fabric.**
- 3. Snuffle away! Remove the snuffle mat and put away in a safe place when the treats are gone and the mat is not in use, or if any part becomes loose, detached, or damaged.**

### **--DISCLAIMER--**

**As with any pet toy, your pet should be supervised when they are enjoying the snuffle mat. Always monitor your pets interaction with the mat to ensure they are using it appropriately and not chewing or ingesting the fleece strips or rubber mat base.**