

Scent of the Day -Dogs

The following has been adapted from material on the ASPCAPro.org website

When incorporating this enrichment activity, it's as easy as introducing a different scent as part of your daily kennel cleaning. You can include the bottle or shaker of the scent of the day on the cart with your kennel cleaning supplies.

You could also designate an enrichment cart that contains the various enrichment items for the kennels as well as a copy of your enrichment schedule.



Check out warehouse stores to obtain extracts and spices in bulk sizes.



You can also try aromatherapy extracts and oils, but be sure to research these carefully before using them in the animal centre. Some aromatherapy substances are irritants or even toxic to animals (although more likely to affect cats than dogs).

See [Smell/Olfactory for Stress Reduction](#) for scents used to elicit calming behaviour

Materials

- Spray bottles and containers with shaker tops
- Cooking extracts, such as vanilla, peppermint, almond, coconut, etc.
- Sweet spices, such as cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, cardamom

What to Do:

- 1) Prepare the scents
 - Assemble as many spray bottles as you have liquid extracts.
 - Fill each bottle nearly full with water, and then add a small amount of extract, and mix. Remember that dogs have a keen sense of smell, so the concentration of extract can be very small.
 - If you have dry spices, transfer each to a container with a shaker top.
- 2) In each kennel, after cleaning, lightly spray a wall, spot on the floor, or in a corner with the diluted extract. If the scent of the day is a dry spice, sprinkle small amounts on bedding or toys

If you find that some scents are not well received, remove them from the rotation, and try something else. If individual dogs do not interact with certain scents, or display aversion toward them, you can record this on the enrichment schedule.