

Tips for wet weather

Does your dog drive you crazy after a few days of wet weather? Are they cooped up inside with no walks for days? You might be surprised to learn that you can give your pets just as much fun by exercising their brains. Playing with your dog for 10 minutes or teaching a trick for 5 minutes can be just as beneficial as taking your dog for a 30 minute walk! So, we have listed some ideas below, but don't forget to use your imagination!

Enrol in training classes with the RSPCA Animal Training and Behaviour Centre! Even if your dog has done previous training, there is no harm in refreshing your skills and learning new things. Call us to discuss class options.



Nose work games

A dog has millions more scent receptors in their nose than humans do. Many dogs are bred to use their nose such as bloodhounds! Sometimes, dogs need to be taught to use their nose. We often point out items for our dogs to eat or sniff on the ground, and they learn to rely on this. Play nose games with your dog. Hide a treat under one of three plastic cups or boxes when your dog is in another room, then let your dog in and teach them to find the treat! Take it a step further and teach your dog to sit when they find the treat.



Tricks

Teaching tricks are a great way to spend time with your pets and engage them mentally. It's also loads of fun to show off to your friends! Common tricks are shake the paw, roll over and spin. Be patient and use treats. Never force your dog or cat to perform a trick.

Tug and Give games

Playing tug with your dog is an excellent way to exercise, is a positive way to increase your dog's focus on you and it teaches the dog a lot about its body too. Teach your dog to take and release the toy on a verbal cue. Reward them with a play when they get it right.



Fill kongs

Kongs are a great toy for your dog or cat and can keep them nice and busy. Spend a rainy day filling kongs and freezing them so they are ready for dispensing at short notice. Depending on how experienced your pet is at emptying a kong, try different recipes including suitable leftovers, chicken mince and honey with dry food.

Make ice treats

Use an empty ice cream container or similar, fill with water and place in it different food items and freeze. Empty the ice treat outside for your dog on a hot (sunny!) day.

Spend time grooming your pet

Use the rainy days to groom your pets and go over their coat and skin to look for changes or abnormalities. Reward your pets with treats when they are calm and accepting of the grooming. Massage is a great way to bond with your pet and teach them to accept gentle handling.

Watch your favourite animal movie with your pets

What a great way to spend a rainy day. Cuddle up on the sofa with your pet to watch a movie.

Hide and seek

This is a great game to play indoors with your dog. It is best set up with two people. One person holds the dog and the other person hides. The person that hides needs to have yummy treats on them. Start with an easy hiding place first. When your dog finds you, act surprised and give them lots of praise and treats. This helps to develop the bond between you and your dog and helps with recalls.

Teach and reward your dog for toileting in the rain

Do you have a pet that won't go outside to toilet when it is raining or the grass is wet? Take the opportunity on a wet weather day to highly reward your dog when they go outside. Start with rewarding your dog for standing on the wet grass and then walking. Save the best treats for when they go to the toilet!

Work on mat and crate training

Having your pet inside with the family is really important. If you have a pet that wreaks havoc inside, teach them what you would like them to do instead. Sitting quietly on a mat or in a crate chewing on a pigs ear or kong is a great alternative. Contact the Animal training and Behaviour centre for further information.

Make some dog and cat toys! Be imaginative and safe. Be sure to supervise your pets when you give them something new.

Take the opportunity to spend time with your pets and work on the bond you have with them. Our pets like nothing more than to spend time with us, but it is a lot more involved than just taking your dog for a walk each day.

