



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

SEPT - DEC

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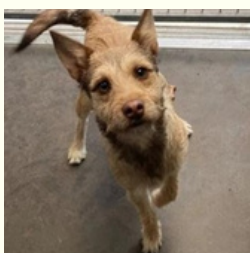
It's hard to believe that it has already been three months since we opened our gates for business! We want to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who has visited our field. Your efforts to keep it clean and the fabulous photos and videos you've shared of your dogs having fun mean the world to us!

Transforming our field into a space where your dogs can play has been a labour of love, and we're thrilled with the progress we've made so far. There's still plenty more to come! We're constantly looking to enhance your experience—whether that's adding more equipment, educational posters, or initiatives that foster a sense of community among our dog-loving family. We truly value your feedback, so please don't hesitate to share any ideas you have for what you and your dog would like to see!

Remember, every pay-as-you-go booking contributes to our charity pot. Excitingly, as we look ahead to Christmas 2025, we're planning a photo competition to create a calendar that will help us raise even more funds for great causes.

Thank you all for your continued support and for being a part of our journey. We can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us, and we're so grateful to have you along for the ride!

PAWSOME STORY



Whirly was found tied up in Hilsea, Portsmouth, in 2023 and taken to Portsmouth Stray Dog Kennels. He was adopted by the owner of an animal talent agency, who recognized his impressive personality. At only 10 months old, Whirly gained recognition in a McDonald's ad, where he proudly walked across a road in a knitted elf costume.

You can read the full story here: [Former stray dog stars in festive advert](#) - courtesy of BBC news.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Dogs have 3 eyelids, including a eyelid called the nictitating membrane that helps keep their eyes moist and free of debris.

COMING SOON...

- Installation of 2 tether ball poles
- Memorial garden work to start
- Christmas trees planted
- Scent boxes upgraded/changed
- Installation of balancing beams/dog walk

PLANTING UPDATE

On Wednesday, December 4th, we completed our 2024 planting of an additional 200 whips and bushes. To date, we have planted 75 blackthorns, 85 hawthorns, 35 dog roses, 35 wild privets, 20 elders, 35 field maples, 20 seabuck thorns, 15 hornbeams, 4 rowans, 2 crab apples, 2 oaks, 2 silver birches, 30 cherry laurels, and 30 red robins, along with gooseberry, raspberry, and blackberry plants, as well as lavender, thyme, roses, a pear tree, and an apple tree. But that's not all— we also plan to plant two Christmas trees, introduce vegetable and herb planters, and create a memorial garden filled with flowers and ornaments. Our hope is that most of these plants will survive and thrive come spring, contributing to the insect ecology and providing dogs with a rich variety of scents to explore during their visits.

ENRICHMENT IDEAS AT HOME

There are times when taking your dog for a walk isn't feasible, but there are plenty of enjoyable activities you can do at home that can strengthen your bond and tire them out.

Scent Games: Simple items like empty boxes or egg cartons can serve as excellent toys to promote foraging. Just place a treat inside and scatter the boxes around the floor for your dog to sniff. Instead of feeding your dog from a bowl, consider using a Kong, a Wobbler, or other puzzle toys to make mealtimes more engaging.

Hide and Seek: This classic game can be a fun way to engage your dog mentally and physically. Have your dog stay while you hide, then call them to find you. This reinforces recall and provides a fun challenge.

Obstacle Course: Set up a mini obstacle course using household items like chairs, cushions, and broomsticks. Encourage your dog to jump, crawl, and navigate through the course. This promotes physical activity and agility training.

Teach New Tricks: Spend time teaching your dog new tricks or commands. This not only mentally stimulates them but also reinforces your bond. Tricks like "roll over," "play dead," or "spin" can be fun and rewarding.

Benefits: Engaging your dog's brain can tire them out just as much as physical exercise. Studies show that mentally stimulating activities can reduce behavioural issues by providing a productive outlet for your dog's energy. Interactive play not only strengthens your dog's obedience but also enhances the bond between you two, fostering a deeper relationship and building trust.

Peanut Butter and Banana Dog Treats

Ingredients:

- 1 ripe banana
- 1/2 cup peanut butter (make sure it's unsweetened and xylitol-free)
- 1 cup whole wheat flour (or oats for a gluten-free option)
- 1/4 cup rolled oats (optional for added texture)
- 1/4 cup chicken or beef stock (low sodium)

Instructions:

Preheat the Oven: Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C).

Mash the Banana: In a mixing bowl, mash the ripe banana with a fork until smooth.

Mix Ingredients: Add the peanut butter and broth to the mashed banana and mix until well combined.

Add Flour and Oats: Gradually add the whole wheat flour and rolled oats (if using) to the mixture. Mix until a dough forms. If the dough is too sticky, you can add a little more flour to make it manageable.

Roll Out the Dough: On a floured surface, roll out the dough to about 1/4 inch thick.

Cut Out Treats: Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes from the dough. You can also use a knife to cut them into squares or rectangles.

Bake: Place the cut-out treats on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven for about 15-20 minutes, or until they are golden and firm.

Cool and Serve: Let the treats cool completely on a rack before giving them to your dog. Store any leftovers in an airtight container.

CHARITY POT SO FAR...

