

## Occupational Enrichment

Giving your dog a “job” with physical or mental stimulation. We all know about labradors when they get bored ...something usually gets chewed. Some things we do for our dogs when they are older are take them for exploratory walks in the woods, hunting, fetch, and swimming. When they are pups they are limited to most of these things, again, due to their under-developed immune systems. We do other things such as puzzles that hide a piece of kibble under it, thick ropes tied on door handles to teach them how to open things, balls that hide kibble and release a piece once they roll them around, and puppy agility courses (maze). The stimulation from having a “job” reduces the boredom, and also begins you on the first steps of training and working towards good behavior and obedience.