Rotating Dogs

For dogs in shelters, their environment can be stressful and monotonous. Enrichment is crucial because it keeps their minds stimulated and reduces stress. This can mean the difference between a nervous, withdrawn dog and a happy, adoptable one. Things like puzzle feeders, toys, and regular human interaction can help them stay sharp and feel less anxious, making them more adoptable to the public that comes looking to add a new family member.

The procedure of rotating dogs is one method we use to help reduce stress in our dogs. We move all dogs in the Dog area and Outback during morning cleaning but in addition to that we move them from their kennels to the exercise yards multiple times a day. This is what we call rotating dogs in that it rotates the environment they experience during the day. This accomplishes several things for us and the dogs. It helps bring their energy level down and that makes them easier to deal with when you are in their housing unit.

Because the yards are used for many things, work with the other teams to make sure there are available yards when you are ready to give a kennel's occupants time in the yard. The Behavior Team has precedence for yard use.

When taking dogs out for rotation, make sure the water buckets in the yard are clean and full. Dogs should be in a yard for about 30 minutes and then another set rotated/brought in. On busy days you may not have a lot of time to do this for all the kennels in your area. On those days you need to be sure that you rotate at least some of the kennels in your area. It is important to keep track of the kennels/dogs that have had their turn in rotation so that everyone gets a turn, rather than giving the same dogs a rotation and missing others. There is a white board in each area for recording when each kennel has been rotated. This board allows everyone to know who has been out and who needs to get a turn in the yard. The board will list the kennels in the area and staff will record the day/time the kennel went into a yard and check the kennel off when dog are brought back to their kennel. Can I get a hand drawn pic of what it looks like?

Kennel Rotation		
Date/Time	**Kennel #**	**Completed**
11/5 11am	O1	
11/5 11am	O2	
11/4 2pm	013	Y
11/4 11am	O6	

When it is time for O13 to get out again just change the date and time and remove the Y.

When they can, the Behavior Team will assist with rotating dogs. You need to ask if you want assistance.