

Meeting Dogs' Needs In a Kennel Environment; What Are They & Can We Do It?



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What Are Your Thoughts?

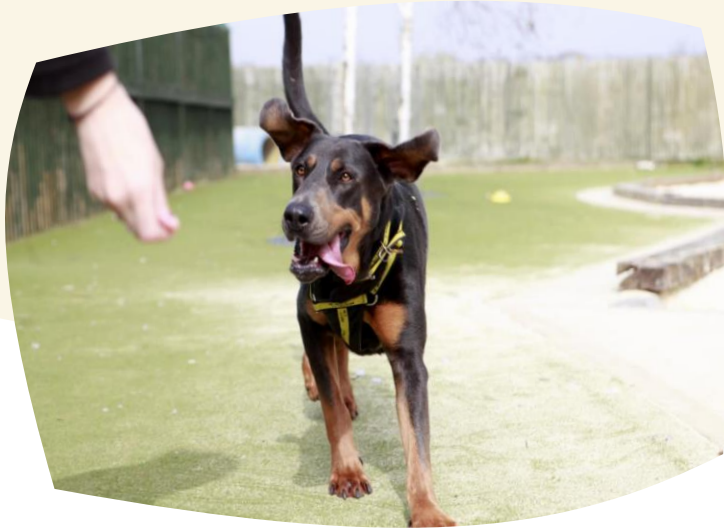
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Learning Objectives



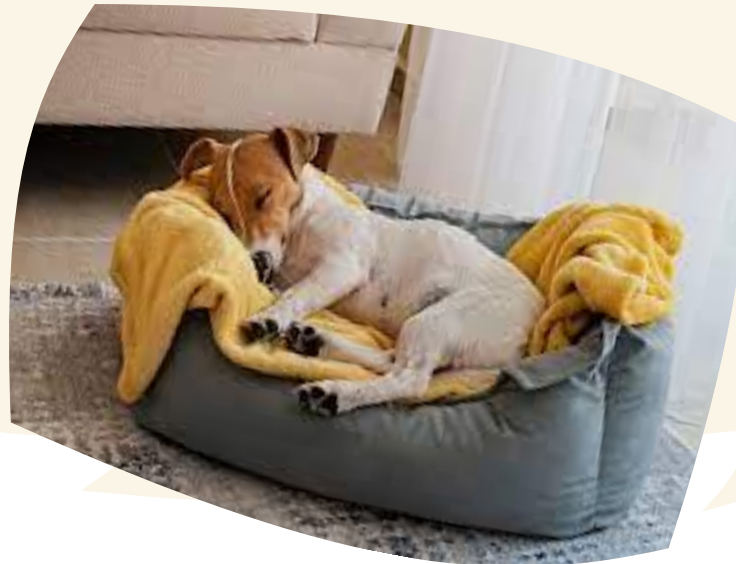
- Be introduced to the hierarchy of dog needs
- Explore the different needs, and what they mean to us
- Look at what we can do to work towards best practice
- Understand the relationship between the various needs of dogs



The Basics



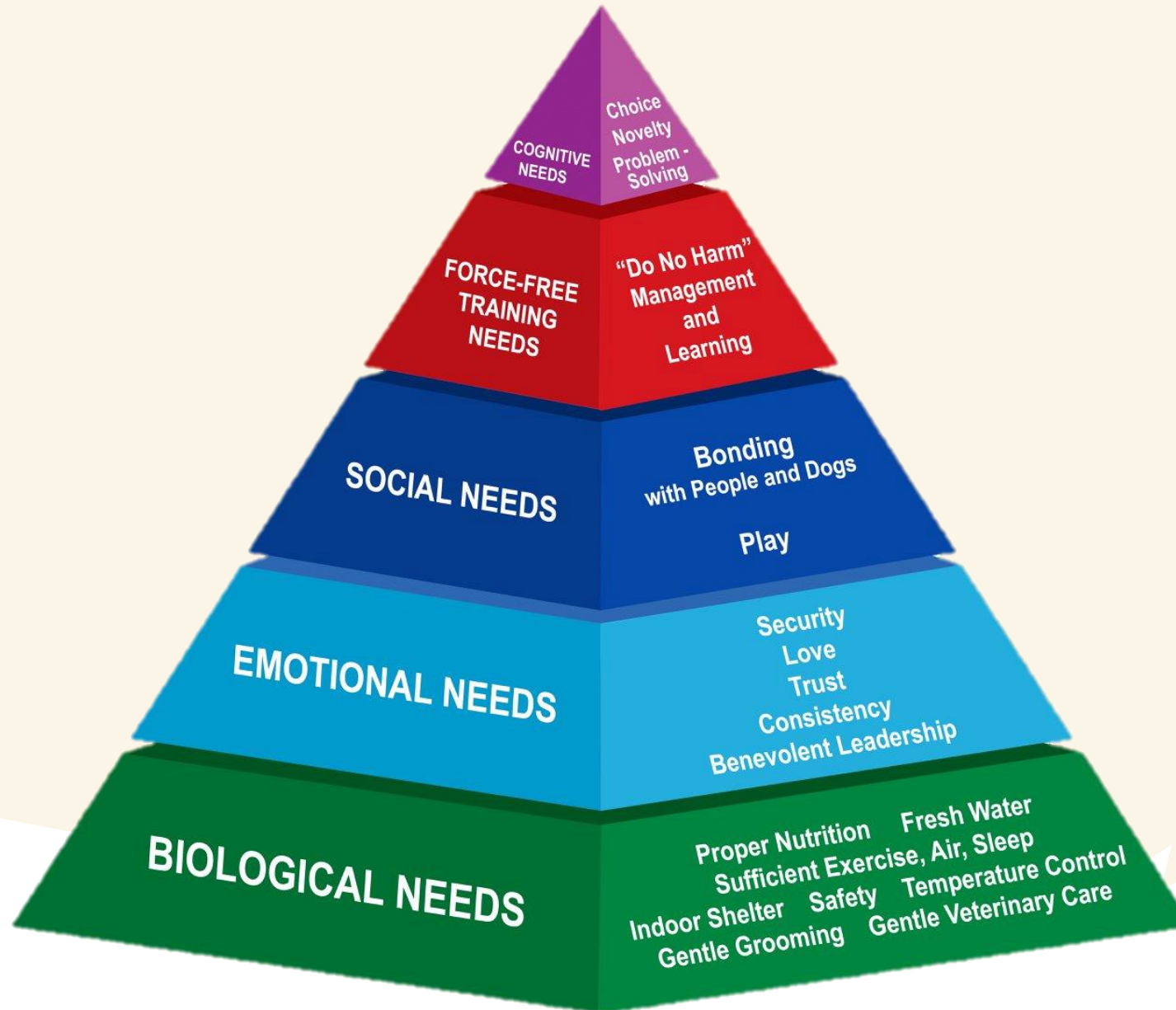
- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Maintenance behaviour
 - Elimination
 - Sleep



Is this best practice for welfare?



Hierarchy Of Dogs Needs



Biological Needs



- Appropriate nutrition
- Fresh water
- Shelter
- Exercise

Basic Needs
to best of our
ability

- Welfare friendly veterinary handling
- Welfare friendly grooming

- Sleep
- Safety

Outside the
scope of this
presentation

Lets explore
more!



Not only is it important to promote good sleep, but sleep can also be a good indicator of good welfare ⁽³⁾

Lack of sleep has been linked to:

- Poorer ability to cope with stress
- Anxiety
- Decreased sensitivity to rewards
- Lower frustration tolerance

How much sleep?

- 16 hours
- 60% of night in unrestricted dogs ⁽⁴⁾
- 80% of the night in barren research facility
- 71% in enriched environment and 30-37% of the day ⁽⁵⁾





**Shelter dogs slept
71% of night but
only 2.8% of day ⁽³⁾**

Sleep - How to Promote?



Dogs who received more social interactions with people and other dogs and had more physical exercise spent more time sleeping (6)

- Can be difficult with time

Social sleep with other dogs and people

- Shared housing
- Office time/reading programs



Various bed options

- Locations in kennel
- Size and shape
- Material options
- Offering option for elevation



Safety



Predictability/familiarity

- Routine
- Consistent staff where possible
- Appropriate social links
- How often do we clean the kennel?



Choice

- Choice where possible
- Respecting body language

Minimum exposure to negative experiences

- Reduced exposure to punishment
- Reduce exposure to triggers



Emotional Needs



Emotional Needs



Taking care to attend emotional needs nurtures the relationship between owners and dogs and helps prevent behaviour issues. (6)

- Security
- Love
- Trust

Similar concepts
based around
attachment

- Consistency

Already
discussed

- Benevolent leadership

Responsibility
to train with
kindness



Emotions Themselves



Part of meeting emotional needs is trying to mainly activate positive emotions

Broadly we can split emotions into two categories **Positive** and **Negative** emotions

- SEEKING
- CARE
- PLAY
- LUST



- GRIEF/PANIC
- FEAR
- RAGE
(frustration)



Encouraging Positive Emotions



SEEKING



PLAY



Preference Testing





Social Needs



Bonding with people

- Already discussed consistency of staff initially
- If uncomfortable around new people may want to work on a specific intro plan?
- Building a bond with new adopters
 - Outside the kennel interactions are brief (average 8mins)
 - Most visitors only take out 1 dog
 - More adoptions occur if dog is taken to small area
 - Only two behaviours matter (4)

**Engaging
in play**

**Laying in
proximity**



Bonding with Dogs and Play

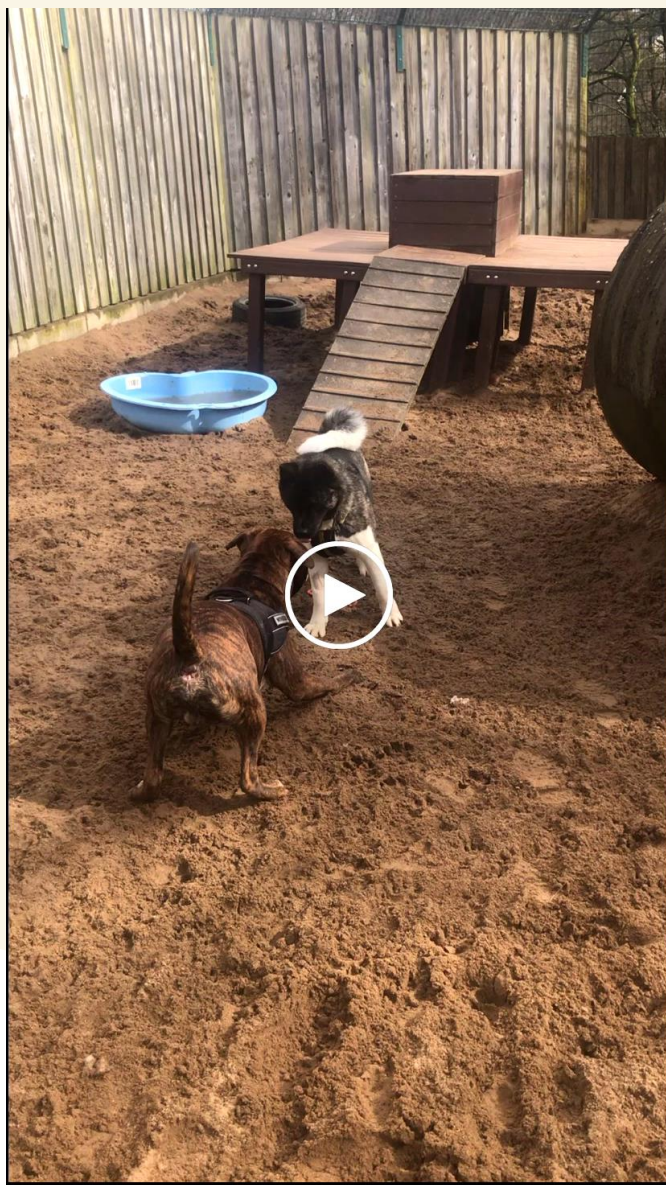
Single, Pair or Group living

- Careful introductions
- Good ability to read body language

One indicator of meeting this need is appropriate play

- Role reversal
- Chased/being chased
- Mirroring and matching
- Pauses and breaks, play bow
- Respecting space
- Self handicapping
- Both dogs enjoying themselves





Training and learning



Training and Learning Needs



Should focus on Positive reinforcement

Not only good for meeting needs but also helps rehomability





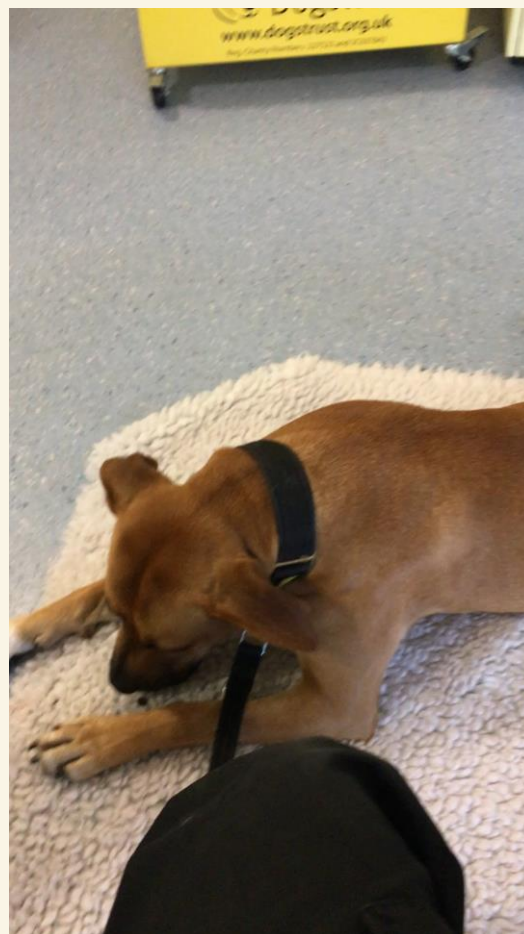
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Training and Learning Needs



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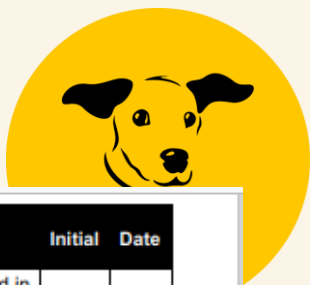
Not only good for meeting needs but also helps rehomability





Before and After





Dog's name		Date given
Trainer		



How to Teach Loose Lead Walking (LLW)

To be carried out in conjunction with SOP – Basic Training for Rehoming: Loose Lead Walking Training


This plan teaches a dog to walk by their dog with their handler without pressure on the lead. As a result, the dog does not need to walk to heel, and they can investigate the environment.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- This training needs to be started in a location where the dog is relaxed, with minimal distractions.
- Your dog should be on a flat collar or non-restrictive harness.

Equipment:

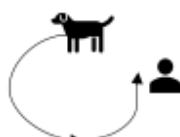
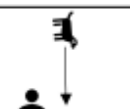
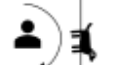
- Treats/ toy (reward)
- Clicker (if desired)
- Flat Collar/Harness

 This training plan has an accompanying video – 'How to Loose Lead Walk', which you may find helpful to watch before you start training. You can find the video on the Learning Emporium located in 'General Behaviour Resources > Useful Videos > Video - How to – Loose Lead Walk'. Alternatively, scan the QR code to the right to access the video.



STAGE 1 – TEACH YOUR DOG THEY ARE REWARDED FOR BEING BY YOUR SIDE

Lure your dog into position by your side, facing forwards

Option A: With the dog in front of you and facing you, hold a treat under their nose and bring them in a wide semi-circle until they are by your side	Or	Option B (often suitable for larger dogs): With the dog in front of and facing you, take a step back with the treat under their nose, and turn, so they are now by your side
		<div>(Facing the dog) </div> <div>Turn 180° so that you are now travelling in the same direction as the dog, and they are by your side. </div>

Top Tip: With Option A, you can approach these two ways. Either keep both your feet on the floor and bring them in a wide semi-circle or decide which side you want the dog and take a step back with the foot that's closest to the dog

STAGE 1 – WHICH METHOD HAVE YOU SELECTED FOR YOUR DOG	Initial	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Option A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Option B		
Using Option A or Option B (tick boxes above on which method chosen) – Mark and reward when the dog is by your side, facing forwards		

STAGE 2 – TEACH YOUR DOG THEY ARE REWARDED FOR WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD

Once your dog is in position, bring your treat hand slightly up (such that the dog is still interested in the reward but not jumping at your hand) and take one step forwards. Mark and reward if the lead remains loose.

Initial Date

1

STAGE 2 – TEACH YOUR DOG THEY ARE REWARDED FOR WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD

Initial Date

Continue this with each step you take.

- It is important to mark and reward the dog when they are in the correct position
- It can help to have your treats on the side closest to the dog



Top Tip! If your dog pulls, standstill. When they move so that the lead is slack again, continue walking. Alternatively, change direction, call your dog's name and say 'this way' in an encouraging voice

STAGE 3 – EXTEND THE DURATION THAT YOUR DOG WALKS ON A LOOSE LEAD

Initial Date

Once your dog is in position, bring your treat hand up but, over time, increase the number of steps until the dog can take four steps by your side between treats.

Top Tip – although you are building up to 4 steps – sometimes vary how many steps you take between rewards. Sometimes reward after 1 step, three steps etc.

Once you can take four steps between rewards, fade the lure out.

This may mean having your hand in your pocket, then next to your pocket, then by your side without a treat in it.

Continue to progress the number of steps you are able to take before reward.

Even as we look to extend how far they travel with us, try to vary how many steps you take between rewards. Sometimes taking on a couple, other times walk further between rewards, then reward after one step etc. Variety helps to keep their interest.

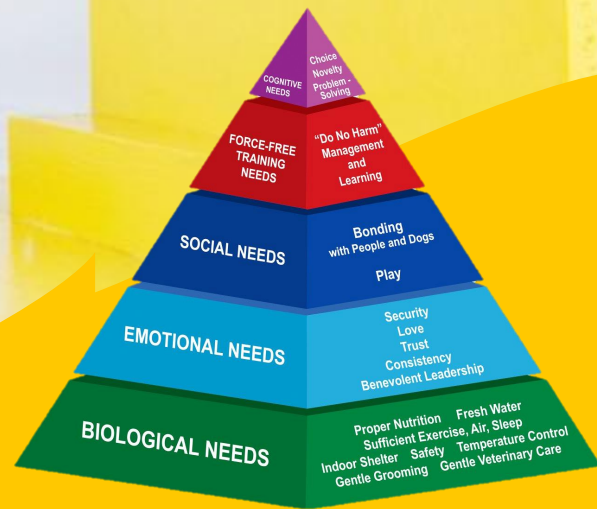
Begin to add in more turns and vary the direction that you travel with the dog.

Top Tip – as we travel further distances and add in more turns – we may need to offer the dog more praise in between rewards

Gradually introduce distractions into the training environment. If you have been working indoors, this could initially mean opening the windows to allow scent and noise in, then working with the doors open, then working just outside. If you have been working outdoor, this may mean moving to



Cognitive Needs



Based around enrichment

- Choice
- Novelty
- Problem solving



Cognitive Needs

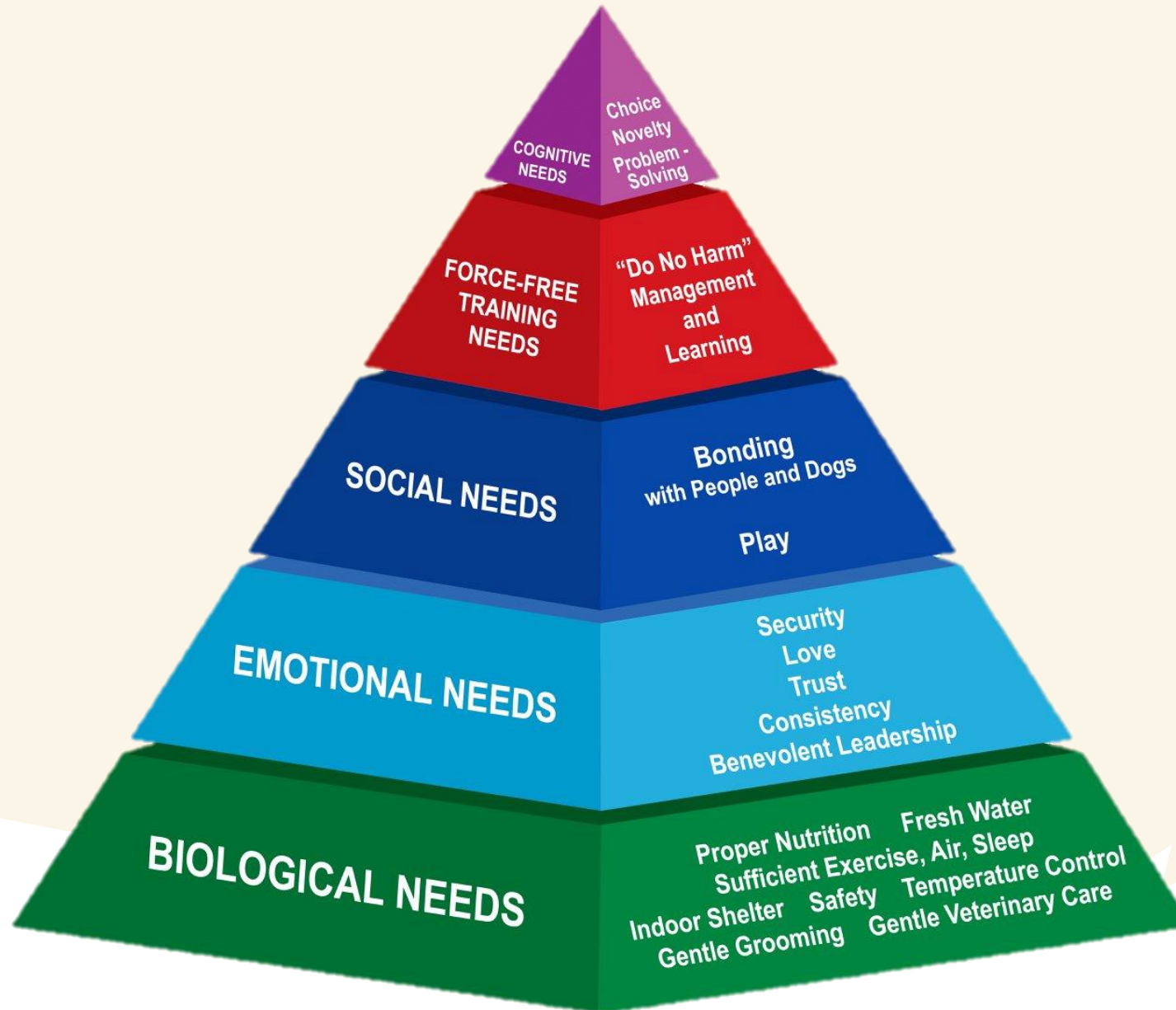


Behaviour modification

- Some dogs have more specific needs in terms of behaviour modification
- This could be based around problem behaviours such as reactivity or anxiety issues.
- We are working in an extremely difficult environment
- Need to meet other needs in order to set the dog up for success



Hierarchy Of Dogs Needs



Learning Objectives



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Thank You!



References



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