1/6/12

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Think Outside the Cage
What you hold in your mind is what you create

by Mike Fry
Executive Director, Animal Ark
Host, Animal Wise Radio

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

The Beginning of a Movement

by Mike Fry
Executive Director, Animal Ark
Host, Animal Wise Radio

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Rich Avanzino Wanted a Shelter That

- Did not smell
- Was home-like
- Was inviting
- Was comfortable for animals and people

by Mike Fry
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Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Great. But, what's a poor, rural shelter supposed to do, we wondered…

In the 1990's Animal Ark was:
- 35 miles outside of metro area
- Population of Hastings about 15,000 people
- Annual budget of < $300,000
- No $$ in bank
- Shelter was in disrepair

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How Did We Go From Here to There?

Before   After

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Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Rethinking Everything

- Housing
- Vet Care
- Nutrition
- Socialization
- Play
- Exercise
- Training

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Shelter enrichment is for

- All Species
- Including Human Visitors

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Enrichment Doesn't Take a Pile of $

Our cat condos cost less than traditional housing

by Mike Fry
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Slide 2

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Enrichment Doesn't Take a Pile of $

Our cat condos save $ on vet care

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Slide 3

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Enrichment is Good for Everyone

Our cat condos increase adoptions

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Enrichment Challenges Us to Rethink Old Outdated Assumptions

- Disinfecting
- Daily Cleaning
- Nutrition
- Socialization

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What is the Best Disinfectant Against Feline Diseases?

Answer:
A healthy feline immune system

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Slide 6

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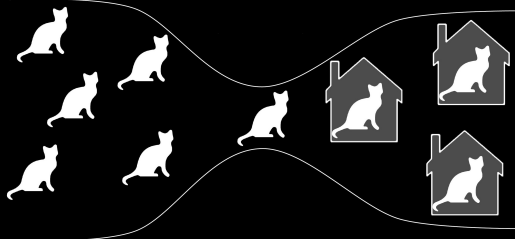
Traditional Approach to "Sterility" Does Not Work

- Animals are Stressed
- Stress Weakens Immune System
- Germs, Viruses & Spores Easily Move from Cage to Cage
- Animals Forced to Sit in Close Proximity to where Germs, Viruses and Spores are most Common

by Mike Fry
Executive Director, Animal Ark
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Traditional Approach to "Sterility" Does Not Work

Adoption Bottleneck or Bandwidth Issue

Animal Ark's Cat Condo Renovation

Built in 3 Phases

Built in 3 Phases

Every Unit Features:

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Results After 5 years:

- Increased Adoptions
- Zero Ringworm
- 95% Reduction in URI
- Easily Accommodate "Challenging" Felines

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Enrichment Differs by Location

- Adoption Floor
- Quarantine
- Isolation
- Health Status

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In Dog Kennels

- Don't Make Dog Kennels Face Other Kennels
- Make the Kennels LARGE
- Group Dogs When Possible
- Scheduled Potty Breaks

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In Dog Kennels

- Beds
- Blankets
- Toys
- Treats
- Music

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A Few Words About Flooring

- I Hate Concrete
- I Hate Epoxy
- I Hate Any Hard, Cold Slippery Surface
- Dogs Do, Too.

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Good Flooring is:

- Warm
- Non-Slip
- Impervious to Everything
- Indestructible
- Sound-Absorbing

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Even If You Have Nice Kennels…

- Get Your Dogs Outside!

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Even If You Have Nice Kennels…

- A Tired Dog is a Well-Behaved Dog

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Think Beyond Dog Walking Volunteers

- Walking
- Obedience Training
- Agility Training
- Play & Socialization
- Biking (safety)

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Think Beyond Dog Walking Volunteers

- Massage
- T-Touch

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Socialization Rooms

Make them functional and comfortable

Ours contain fireplaces, TV sets and private yards

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Integrate Animals Into Human Spaces, Where Possible

- Break Rooms
- Office Space
- Work Areas

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Pay Special Attention to Fearful Animals

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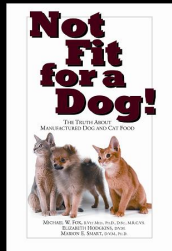
Kiki's Story

From Feral Dog   To Couch Potato

by Mike Fry
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A Special Comment About Nutrition

Not Fit for a Dog!
THE TRUTH ABOUT
MANUFACTURED DOG AND CAT FOOD

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A Special Comment About Staff

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If You MUST Do Something Unpleasant. . .

by Mike Fry
Executive Director, Animal Ark
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A Comment About Pain Management

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Host, Animal Wise Radio

Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Enrichment is about Making Life at the Shelter The Best It Can Be In Every Possible Way

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It is More Fun for Animals, Staff, Volunteers and Clients

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Life Enrichment for Shelter Animals

Extreme Make-Over Shelter Edition

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Extreme Make-Over
Shelter Edition

Extreme Make-Over
Shelter Edition

In 24 Hours, a Team of 6 People:

- Converted upstairs bingo parlor into cat adoption center
- Moved 1/2 the dogs to Animal Ark
- Created outdoor kennels for dogs
- Created a play yard for dogs
- Provided emergency vet care to animals in need
- Increased the living space for dogs & cats by 300%
- Held press conference to enroll community

In 24 Hours, a Team of 6 People:

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The Urine Trough Crawl

Don't Worry. Be Crappy.
Form Follows Function.