

SNUFFLE MAT

*Play scenting games
with your pups.*

Their sense of smell is so wonderful and so much more sensitive than yours. When given an opportunity to play scenting games, their enthusiasm is contagious and they love to play with snuffle mats.

The snuffle mat is a homemade toy that provides the dog with an opportunity to sniff and search for hidden treats. The snuffle mat consists of fleece strips tied on to a rubber mat with holes in it. The loose ends of the fleece are on top and provide the hiding spots for the treats.



Teaching Your Dog to Use the Mat

When introducing the snuffle mat to your pups, put the mat on the floor and pup(s) watch you drop a few small treats on top of the strips. Then say, "Find it!" and watch pup(s) use scenting abilities. After finding those treats load the mat with more treats with some sprinkled on top and some hidden in between the strips, letting them go search some more.

Let each pup have a turn or two. Vary treats to keep them curious.

Monitor Your Dog

Unlike many food dispensing toys, the mat should not be left with your dog when unsupervised if they tend to be destructive. Since the fleece strips will soon begin to smell like food or treats, many dogs will, if left alone with the mat after finding all the treats, chew the fleece strips and potentially swallow them. This should then be used only when you can spend time with your dog and supervise him.