



## Helpful Tips for Caring for a Heartworm Positive Dog

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**\*Activity must be restricted before, during, and for a period after treatments.**

There are many creative ways to exercise their minds, and keep them from getting bored and restless. Listed below are several options. You can also Google search “brain games for dogs” or “canine enrichment” and you will find lots of great ideas. Keep in mind that the dog needs to remain CALM during the activities so choose mentally stimulating ideas, not physically stimulating activities.

**Always follow the guidelines your vet has given you regarding your pet’s activity. Below are some helpful tips.**

1. Feed all meals in some type of slow feeder or puzzle feeder. A good example of this would be a Kong Wobbler. This helps them work for their food and keeps them occupied for a longer length of time.
2. If the weather is nice freeze some treats or even a bone in a small water bowl. Pop it out and let them work to get the treats while experiencing the texture and temperature of the ice.
3. Hide treats around the room/in a small outside area and let them search for them.
4. Go for a car ride with the windows down if they enjoy car rides. Sit somewhere new like a park, lake, or busy area if your dog likes to meet people. The new smells, sounds and sights is exciting to them. Keep actual walks 5 minutes or less.
5. Work on basic commands with some extra yummy treats. “Look” is a great command to teach and easy to do. Hold a tiny high value treat and once your dog is sitting, ask them to “look” and move the treat up to your eye. When they make eye contact with you say “yes” and give them a treat. Repeat daily several times. This is a great all-around command for any dog to know so you can get their attention.
6. Play calming music for them while they are crated or calm on a dog bed.

Remember this is not forever and keeping them busy will make everyone feel better about their restricted activity. You will likely find that some of these ideas become favorite activities for you and your new dog.

If, after trying these suggestions, you are still experiencing undesirable behaviors in your dog, SUBMIT QUESTIONS by clicking the link under Ask A Trainer on the Behavior and Training page of the Wayside Waifs website: [www.waysidewaifs.org](http://www.waysidewaifs.org).

Written by the Wayside Waifs Canine Behavior Team  
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