

A photograph of four dogs in a grassy field. In the background, a Weimaraner with white fur and brown patches is looking towards the camera. In the foreground, three other dogs are interacting: a pointer with white and brown fur, a white dog with brown patches, and a white dog with large ears. All dogs have their mouths open, suggesting they are playing or communicating.

# Social Interactions: Dogs and Other Dogs

Croney Research Group

# Support social interactions between dogs!

- Group housing
- Play sessions



## Social housing is good for dog welfare

- Increased sleeping
- Increased exploration
- Increased social interaction and play
- Improved dog-human relationship
- Fewer stereotypies, undesirable behaviors, and vocalizations



## Play matters!

- Promotes development of motor skills
- Supports social relationships
- Decreases behaviors associated with stress



Ensure that social interactions are safe and positive for all dogs involved

## 3 Ways to Support Beneficial Interactions between Dogs in Breeding Kennels

1

House dogs in appropriate groups that support positive social interactions

## 3 Ways to Support Beneficial Interactions between Dogs in Breeding Kennels

2

Structure play sessions based on well-matched play styles and minimize high arousal and frustration by monitoring and intervening as needed

# 3 Ways to Support Beneficial Interactions between Dogs in Breeding Kennels

3

Position play/exercise areas out of view of dogs restricted to pens



## FAQ

### **Social housing is not enough to provide adequate socialization with other dogs**

- It is great for dogs to have the opportunity to build relationships with other dogs in their home pens
- This is a wonderful way to support social interactions. Additionally, it is beneficial for dogs to have social interactions in exercise pens with dogs that live outside of their home pens
- This will increase the enrichment value of the interactions and will also support social confidence



**Learn More:**

- [At-a-Glance Social Interactions – Application](#)
- [At-a-Glance Social Interactions – People](#)
- [At-a-Glance Social Interactions – Handling](#)
- [At-a-Glance Social Interactions – Skills](#)
- [Quick Tips for Success: Adult Dog Body Handling](#)
- [Adult Dog Body Handling Checklist](#)
- [Body Language Handout](#)
- [The role of caretaker interactions in environmental enrichment for kenneled dogs](#)



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