

NATURALLY BALANCED ADVENTURES

Research has shown that a dog's mind functions 80% of the time by instinct and 20% of the time by life experiences. Because dogs have such strong instincts, we have developed all of our facilities, programs and training to work with Mother Nature, while nurturing a dog's natural instincts to create a natural, well-balanced dog. Below are dogs' instincts and how we nurture them.

- **Curiosity (Investigative Behavior)**: Dogs are naturally very curious, and have a desire to investigate and examine objects up close. Examples include sniffing the ground, various objects, and other dogs. We offer:
 - Large open, cage-free adventure areas to investigate
 - Fun, safe and challenging jungle gyms, swimming pools and sandboxes to explore
 - Entertaining and dog friendly toys to sniff and play with
 - Interaction with other dogs to sniff and investigate
- **Pack Actions (Allelomimetic Behavior)**: Animals have a tendency to do what other animals are doing. This behavior appears to be particularly strong in dogs, and most notably in half-grown puppies. Examples include walking or running together, lying down, sleeping and getting up together or howling in unison. We offer:
 - Large open, cage-free adventure areas to walk and run together
 - Open areas and "dog dens" to lie down and sleep together
 - A natural, wooded setting to allow dogs to howl or bark in unison
 - Fun, safe and challenging jungle gyms, swimming pools and sandboxes to play together as a pack

- Care Giving (Epimeletic Behavior): Dogs have varying degrees of instinct to groom, shelter/nest building, and burying/digging for food. We offer:
 - “Dog dens” that provide shelter/nest building
 - Large, clean and safe sandboxes for dogs to dig and bury things
 - Open areas for dogs to groom one another
 - Grooming and care given by human pack members
- Attention Seeking (Et-Epimeletic Behavior): This behavior seems necessary for puppies and is exhibited among adult dogs and between dogs and their human pack members. Examples include whining, yelping, tail wagging, licking face (or hands) of person, rubbing against one another and touching with paws. We offer:
 - Large open, cage-free adventure areas for dogs to give attention to one another
 - Personal attention by human pack members while utilizing naturally balanced pack behavior concepts
- Urine/Feces (Eliminative Behavior): Urinating (and defecating) are of great social importance in dogs and are not simply body functions, but rather a “communication highway” in the dog world. We offer:
 - Large open, cage-free adventure areas with trees and other communication “devices” so they can communicate with one another
 - Human pack members ensure adventure areas and kennels are clean and sanitized with natural, chemical-free products

- Fighting/Defense (Conflict or Agonistic Behavior): Dogs, as predatory animals, have a prominent fighting/defense instinct. There is a tendency to dominant/subordinate under certain conditions. On the other hand, a balanced pack may be peaceful and cooperative. We offer:
 - All dogs are assessed for temperament, personality and specific breed traits
 - Human pack members communicate with the pack using naturally balanced pack behavior techniques to ensure a balanced, peaceful and cooperative pack
 - Dogs that exhibit an overly dominant temperament are provided with personalized human pack member leadership and guidance alone in large open areas
 - Dogs that have an extraordinary aggressive personality may not be allowed to participate in pack activities (and in some cases may not be allowed to board at our adventure park)

- Mating (Sexual Behavior): Because mating (sexual behavior) is such a strong instinct we recognize this instinct and understand it is natural behavior. However, for obvious reasons, we do not encourage this particular instinct and have prevention measures in place to minimize this instinct. We offer:
 - No females in heat are allowed
 - We encourage and support spay/neuter programs
 - We limit the number of intact dogs in our packs
 - Males that exhibit assertive mating tendencies may be restricted in adventure areas and times

- Food (Ingestive Behavior): The instinct to hunt down prey and eat it is very strong. In other words dogs enjoy hunting and earning their keep in a pack. And because this is such a strong instinct we encourage this natural instinct. We offer:
 - “Hunger Games” were we hide treats in the adventure areas so the dogs can “hunt down their prey” and eat it. We offer natural, high quality treats to all pack members
 - The Lure Coursing Adventures (“Chase a Faux Rabbit”) offer an excellent and natural way to nurture a dog’s instinct to chase, hunt down and capture prey. Note we only use pretend rabbits. The dogs love this adventure and excitedly chase the pretend rabbit like it was a real one.
 - Human pack members play and interact with dogs prior to feed times to nurture this instinct in a natural way
 - Human pack members maintain obedience (working for food) and pack respect during meal times
 - We provide interactive toys for the dogs to chase and play with
 - We provide interactive toys with food placed inside

- Contactual Behavior: Dogs have a tendency to maintain bodily contact with other animals. It is important in puppies which need it to maintain warmth and it varies among adult dogs. We offer:
 - Large open, cage-free adventure areas for dogs to be in contact with other dogs
 - Open areas and “dog dens” to lie down and sleep together
 - Fun, safe and challenging jungle gyms, swimming pools and sandboxes to play and be in contact with other pack members
 - Human pack members provide contact with dogs throughout the day