



Fun and Games for Humans and Canines!

Objective: Take an hour out of the busy holiday season to have a little fun with the team while also increasing staff engagement with the dogs.

Content:

- Open with a fun activity that focuses on learning more about each other.
- Identify three new enriching and interactive activities to incorporate into play groups.
 - Review how and when to utilize these activities in a safe way.
- Close with a team appreciation activity.

Prior to Lunch and Learn:

- Have a full bowl of candy to utilize during the opening activity.
- Print the “Round of Appreciation” slips (one for each employee that you have on the team).
 - *See sample at the end of this document
 - Fill in the blanks with the names of each employee. Put these slips in a box to be used at the end of the meeting.

During Lunch and Learn Session:

- Begin with a fun activity! Pass around the bowl of candy and ask everyone to take as many as they want. When everyone has taken a portion, ask them to count the number of pieces. For each piece of candy that was taken, that team member should share one fun/interesting fact about themselves that most people on the team would not know.
 - This will allow everyone to get to know each other a little better! Hint: You may have to set a time limit for those that took a generous handful 😊
- Fun and Games for the Dogs - The holiday season is a fantastic time to attract and retain new customers. Pet parents love seeing pictures of their furry family members romping with their pals, but they also love to see them interacting with the humans in the play yard. Choose three enriching activities that the team will focus on during the Holiday Season. The activities can be as simple as bubbles, nose work with cardboard boxes or a ball pit.
 - Need other ideas? See the links in the resources section of this Lunch & Learn.
- Review when these activities can be incorporated during the day and how this will be documented and tracked. Share ideas on how to keep dogs and humans safe while having fun.

- Assign a few team members to post pictures/videos of these new enriching and interactive activities on your social media each day. Pet Parents will love it! Hopefully this will result in positive comments and praise from customers to keep the team motivated during the busy coming weeks.
- Close the meeting by having each team member pull a “Round of Appreciation” slip out of the box. Ask them to fill out the form and place back in the box before leaving the meeting.

*Review each slip and share the positive messages with the team at the next meeting or post highlights in the break area.

Additional Ideas to keep the fun factor high during the holiday season:

- Print out positive online reviews/comments and post in the break area.
- Be generous with praise of your fellow team members.
- Purchase an extra toy for the play yard.
- Encourage team members to bring in holiday decorations and make the lobby and break areas more festive.
- Surprise the team with special treats, coffees or other novelty items on busy days.

Supporting Education Articles/Tools: The articles listed and linked below provide additional information on the lunch n learn topic that can be introduced or refreshed as part of your training.

Teaching Games to the Dogs and Staff
<https://www.thedoggurus.com/6133-2/>

The Games People Play... With Dogs!
<https://www.thedoggurus.com/games-people-playwith-dogs/>

**** See Next Page for SAMPLE – Round of Appreciation Slips ☺**

Round of Appreciation

Great teams support each other! Please take a moment to let

_____ know what you appreciate about him/her.

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