



YOUR GUIDE TO **FUN WITH YOUR SMALL ANIMAL!**

Everyday Enrichment Ideas to
Improve Your Pet's Life





WHAT IS ENRICHMENT?

Activities and items that help meet your small animal's mental and physical needs by letting them express their natural behaviours.

Environmental Enrichment

Your pet's environment plays a big role in their well-being. Set up your pet's living area with things that help them express their natural behaviours.

Sensory Enrichment

It's important to engage all of your pet's senses; sight, smell, taste, touch and sound.

Social Enrichment

Small animals often love having a buddy and their people! Make sure you satisfy your pet's need to get social.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Small animals like rabbits, Guinea pigs, rats, hamsters and more need enrichment every day to keep them happy and healthy. Enrichment prevents your pet from getting stressed and bored, and can help prevent behaviour issues! Plus, it's a great way to increase your pet's trust and strengthen your bond!

A note about safety: It's important to do your research about what foods and materials are safe for your pet. Each species has unique health and nutritional needs. Monitor your pet while they play with enrichment toys to ensure their safety.

TUBULAR TOYS

HAVING FUN WITH
TOILET PAPER TUBES



Tube Box

Take about 10 toilet paper tubes and a tissue box. Cut the top off the box and stand the tubes up inside. Now you can fill the tubes with your pet's favourite treats like lettuce, hay, pellets and more!



Simply Stuffed

There are endless toys you can make for your small animal using toilet paper tubes! Add food and treats into the tube and then customize! You can fold down the ends, cut holes in the sides or run a string through them and hang them up. Your pet will work their mind and body to get at the yummy treats!

Treat Ball



Cut a toilet paper tube horizontally into rings. Pinch one ring and fit it cross-wise into another ring. Continue to do this until you form a ball. Before adding the final ring, drop in some treats or food. Finish your ball and give it to your pet to roll and rip apart!



Benefits of this activity:



Brain Power



Active Senses

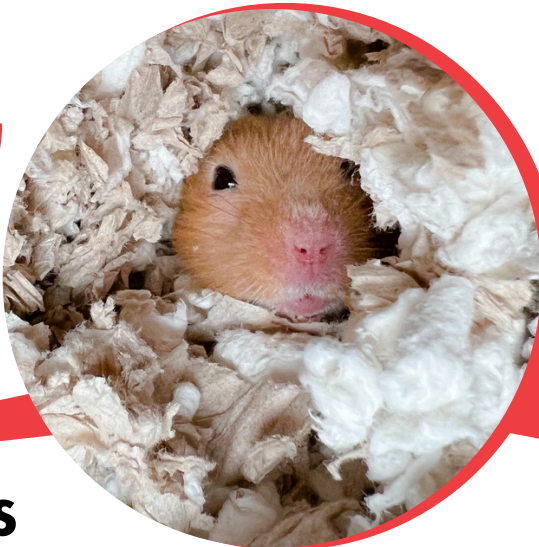


Exercise



Dental health

DIG IT!



Burrow Boxes

Small animals love to dig and burrow! Burrow boxes allow pets to express their natural behaviours and get exercise in a safe environment.

Here are some ideas for what to include in your pet's burrow box:

Bits and Bobs

Collect household items like crumpled paper, loose cardboard, corks, fabric scraps, rags and more. Add them to a box big enough for your pet to rummage through. Don't forget to add a few treats and hay! This is great for rabbits, ferrets, rats and Guinea pigs.

Mini Garden

Fill a box with dirt, substrate, coconut fibre or wood chips. You can add things like food, plants and bugs for your pet to dig for. This is best for rats and ferrets!

Sand

Some animals like gerbils, hamsters, chinchillas and degus need "sand baths" to keep their fur healthy and clean. Just add sand to a container! Sand baths aren't suitable for animals like rabbits or Guinea pigs – do your research!

Ball pit!

You can make a fun ball pit out of plastic balls or plastic Easter eggs! This is best for ferrets and rabbits. Be careful to watch that your pet isn't chewing on the plastic.



Benefits of these activities:



Active Senses



Exercise

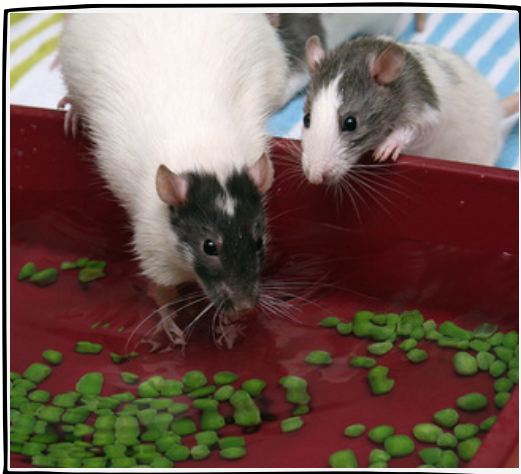


Coat health

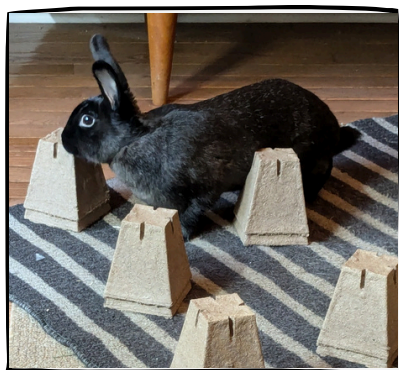
EXPLORATION STATION

Cups

An easy and fun game to play with your pet is to place cups upside down on treats or food and watch your pet move them to reveal what's underneath. You can also try stacking cups with food in between! This is great for rabbits and ferrets.



Source: ratforum.com



Roaming

A great way to engage your pet's mind and body is free-roaming! Allow your pet to run and explore different areas of your house. Make sure to keep an eye on them for their safety!

Fishing for Peas

Fill a shallow bowl or container with lukewarm water and add some frozen peas. Now your pet can hop around and play in the water while fishing for the peas. Try adding some rocks to act as platforms your pet can stand on. This activity is best for rats!

Benefits of these activities:



Exercise



Active Senses



Brain Power



Social life

PARTY TIME!



Painting with "Glitter"

Make a fun activity for your pet using flour, water, their food or treats and a chewable object like a toilet paper roll, sticks or wood block. Start by mixing water with species-safe flour (like oat or buckwheat) to make a paste.



Source: playfromscratch



Source: rachelgothamsters.com

Paint this paste onto the object and then roll it in a seed mixture, pellets or treats as if it were glitter. Press it down to make sure everything sticks. Once it dries, give it to your pet or hang it up with string! This is best for hamsters, mice, gerbils and degus.



Pin-rat-as

Make fun pinatas for your pets using a kleenex, a piece of tissue paper or a paper bag. Simply wrap up some treats or food and tie with string. Hang up your pinata with a string and let your pet get to work! This is great for rats, ferrets, chinchillas and rabbits.



Watch the video!

Benefits of these activities:



Exercise



Training Fun



Brain Power



Social life

MORE FUN



Kebabs

Serve your pet their veggies in a fun way like kebabs and veggie rollers! Take a wooden kebab skewer and load up healthy vegetables. You can hang this kebab in their enclosure or take it a step further by poking cardboard circles onto each end like an axel, and letting them roll it around trying to get the treats! This is great for rabbits and Guinea pigs.

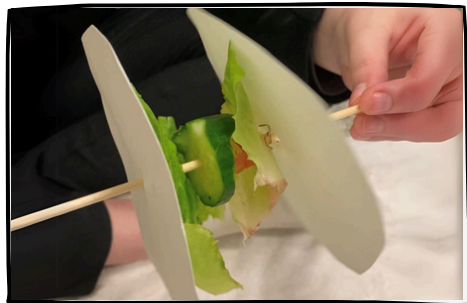
Watch the video!



Source: bunnyapproved

Socks Box

Have old socks? Repurpose them into a fun toy for your furry friend! Fill a few socks with hay and cut small holes in the sides. Take a cardboard box big enough for your pet and place it upside down. Cut an entrance hole in one side, and small slits in the top. Push the top of the socks through the slits so they're hanging inside the box. Now let your pet explore the box and try to get the hay! This is best for rabbits, Guinea pigs and chinchillas.



Benefits of these activities:



Exercise



Training Fun



Coat health



Social life

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