



Witte Where You Are Make Your Own Animal Enrichment

Animal enrichment is an important part of caring for the animals that live in the Witte Museum's SWBC Live Lab. Enrichment is anything that encourages the animals to exercise their bodies and their minds, like a new and exciting toy or a food puzzle. Check out the instructions below for three ways to use toilet paper or paper towel tubes to create fun enrichment for your pet at home. If you don't have a pet, you can still be creative and create enrichment for the animals that live in your backyard! Share photos of the enrichment you create with us on social media @wittemuseum using the tag #wittewhereyouare.

Materials

Toilet paper or paper towel tubes

Enrichment Example #1: Food Puzzle for Most Pets

Extra Materials Needed: Pet food/treats

1. Flatten one end of a toilet paper or paper towel tube and fold to create a sealed end.
2. Fill the tube with a treat for your pet; this could be cat or dog kibble, gerbil treats, or hay for your rabbit or guinea pig! Just make sure the food is something your pet is allowed to eat.
3. Flatten the open end of the toilet paper or paper towel tube and fold to create a sealed end.
4. Give the tube to your pet and watch them enjoy their new food puzzle!

Enrichment Example #2: Enrichment for Reptiles

Extra Materials Needed: String, scissors

1. Cut two small holes about an inch apart in the middle of a toilet paper or paper towel tube.
2. Thread the end of a string through each hole and tie with a double knot.
3. Using the end of the string, attach the tube to the top of a reptile enclosure so that it hangs at a level that your reptile can reach.
4. Watch your pet enjoy their new enrichment!

Enrichment Example #3: No Pet, No Problem!

Extra Materials Needed: Bird seed, peanut butter (or sun butter), string, popsicle stick

1. Using a popsicle stick, cover a toilet paper or paper towel tube with peanut butter or sun butter.
2. Roll the tube in bird seed until the seeds are stuck to the peanut/sun butter and are covering the tube.
3. Take a long piece of string and thread it through the tube, tying the ends in a double knot.
4. Hang from a nearby tree or apartment balcony, and enjoy the birds that come to visit!

