

You will need:

- Paper towel or toilet paper rolls
- Chenille sticks
- String and/or yarn
- Feathers
- Stick
- Plastic bottle w/lid
- Old T-shirt
- Old sock
- Scissors

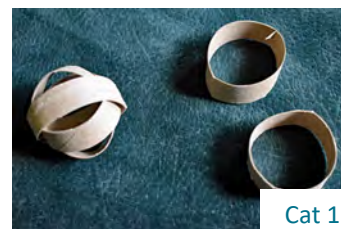


Part of a Zookeeper's job is providing enrichment items to all their animals to help keep them healthy and active! Here are a few ideas for your furry friends at home to help them stay happy!

Directions for Cat Enrichment:

Option 1: Ring Ball

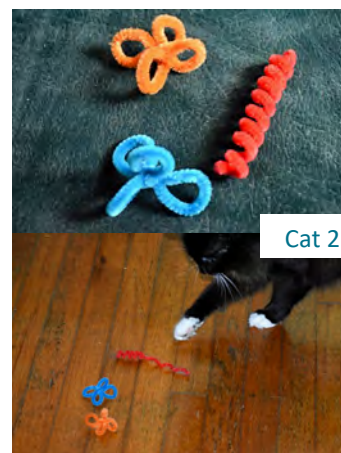
Cut a paper towel or toilet paper roll into ~1/2" wide rings. You can either just leave them as rings or combine 3 rings to make a ball and glue together.



Cat 1

Option 2: Chenille Spirals and Shapes

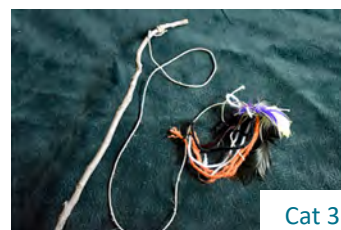
Wrap a chenille stick around a pencil to make a spiral. Or wrap one end around your finger and twist to make a loop, then repeat to make 3 more loops and form into a 4-leaf clover shape. As you can see my cat, Taz, really enjoys the spiral sticks!!!



Cat 2

Option 3: Feather/Yarn Wand

Find a stick, tie a 2-3' piece of string or yarn on one end of the stick and on the other end of the string/yarn, tie pieces of yarn, string and/or feathers. I have paid money for a fancy stick with feathers that only 1 or 2 of my cats will play with but this FREE stick gets all 3 of them playing at one time, they love it!!! :)



Cat 3

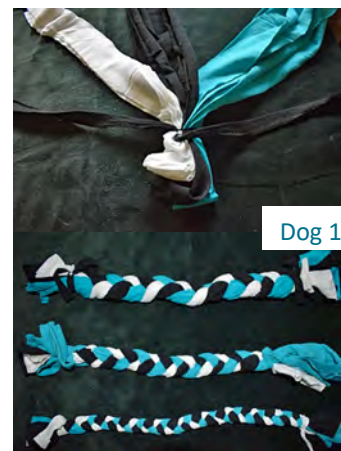
Directions for Dog Enrichment:

Option 1: Tug Braid

Find 1-3 old T-shirts. Cut the hem off the bottom of the shirt and save. Then cut 2-3" wide strips from the bottom of the shirt up until you reach the arms (the strips should make big loops). Cut the hem in half to make 2 strips. Gather 3 loops together and tie them together at one end with the hem piece (see pic). Braid the 3 loops together and tie the opposite end together with the 2nd hem piece.

Note: To make it thicker and sturdier for larger dogs, add more strips of T-shirt to each braiding section. I had 4 strips per section for the largest one and 1 strip per section for the smallest one.

*These can be used for cats as well. My cat, Taz, enjoyed the smallest one after I put some catnip on it!



Dog 1

Option 2: Sock Toy

Find an old sock, a plastic bottle with lid and some dry dog food. Pour the dog food into the bottle, just enough to cover the bottom of the bottle and close the lid. Stuff the bottle into the sock all the way to the bottom and tie a knot just above the top of the bottle. Many dogs will enjoy the sound of the dog food makes in the bottle and the crinkle of the plastic.



Dog 2

Directions for Enrichment for Both:

Option 1: Treat Toys

Cut a nickel sized hole into a plastic bottle with a lid and add treats or dry food and watch your pets try to get the food out! Or take a paper towel or toilet paper roll and push in one end, add treats/food and push in the opposite end. My cat, Frankie, figured out how to get the treats out of the bottle pretty quickly!!!



Both

Show us your pets enjoying their enrichment on our Facebook page "Adventures in EdZOOcation" or tag the North Carolina Zoo at #NCZOO or #NCZOOED.