

Untamed Science—Animal Enrichment

Objective: Use your critical thinking skills to construct a mentally stimulating activity for a pet, friend, or family member.

You will need:

Recyclable items:

- Boxes
- Toilet Paper/Paper Towel tubes
- Cans
- Milk Jugs
- Newspaper
- Bottles, etc.



Directions:

Use the recyclable materials you have collected to create enrichment for a friend or family member! It can be a parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, pet, etc. Enrichment should be created with a goal of eliciting a natural behavior. For example, putting a smelly treat inside of a box for your dog gets him using his sense of smell. It may also elicit a digging and tearing behavior as he figures out how to open the box to get the treat, all of which are natural to him!

Make sure your enrichment doesn't have anything that might hurt your friend/family member/pet on it. Examples can be tape, staples, sharp edges on cans, lids that can be chewed off, leftover chemicals in a bottle, etc. Also make sure they can't get stuck in their enrichment! If your friend gets their hand stuck in a bottle, it won't be much fun anymore!



How did it go?

- Did it take longer or shorter than expected?
- What could you change to improve it?
- Can it be enriching in more than one way?



They used a favorite necklace and created a scavenger hunt around the house with five key clues to open the box and untangle the jar to get the "treat" out.

