

# Enrichment for Exotic Pets

Information provided by AMC's  
Dr. La'Toya Latney, DVM, DECZM, DABVP

Enrichment is a practice of modifying an environment to enable an animal to display normal behaviors, which improves the well-being of that animal. Enrichment helps to keep animals both physically and mentally stimulated and can be created using common household items.



## Foraging & Puzzle Solving

Enrichment that promotes foraging, grazing, or puzzle solving behaviors includes:

- Pet-safe plants such as grass (turtles, rabbits)
- Paper tube or cardboard puzzles (rabbits, rodents, birds)
- Hay bins (rabbits, rodents)



## Exercise

Enrichment that promotes movement and exercise includes:

- Shredding toys (birds)
- Tubes or tunnels to explore (rodents, ferrets, snakes)
- Dig boxes (rabbits)
- Vertical hanging toys (rodents, sugar gliders)
- Exercise wheels (rodents, hermit crabs)



## Security

Enrichment that can allow animals to feel safe includes:

- Hide boxes (chinchillas, guinea pigs, hedgehogs)
- Caves (fish)
- Tubes or tunnels to explore (rodents, ferrets, snakes)



## Sensory

Enrichment that promotes utilizing senses include:

- Visual - touchscreen devices, television (reptiles)
- Auditory - singing, talking, radio playing (birds, amphibians)
- Olfactory (scent) - food items, old t-shirts (small mammals, snakes)
- Tactile - substrates of different textures (small mammals, amphibians)

# Enrichment for Exotic Pets

## Shopping List

Here you will find a list of common household items or other materials that can be used to create enrichment for your exotic pet.

### Common Household Items

- Paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Saved cardboard from packaged food or deliveries
- Bubble wrap
- Tupperware and plastic containers of all sizes
- Shredded paper
- Paper cups
- Touch screen devices
- Television
- Radio
- Old t-shirts/sheets/pillowcases
- Small pillows
- Laundry bins

### Craft & Building Materials

- Fleeces and felt squares
- River polished stones, pebbles
- Non-toxic kids paint
- Plastic canvas sheets
- Clay or ceramic plant pots
- PVC pipe attachments
- Electrical tape
- Dremel and sanding bits

### Miscellaneous Items

- Stuffed animals
- Wooden toy blocks
- Aquarium safe caulk
- Driftwood
- Coconut hides

#### Additional Resources:

- [“Enrichment for Exotic Pets” with Dr. La’Toya Latney](#)
- <https://www.abysinianguineapigtips.com/make-your-own-guinea-pig-toys/>
- <https://exoticanimalsupplies.com/diy-toilet-paper-roll-toys-small-pets/>
- <http://www.lovepetsdiy.com/category/pet-toys/>
- <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/397724210837449599/>
- <https://petfaves.com/make-bird-toys-household-items>
- <https://www.pinterest.com/lvl2/animal-enrichment-ideas/>