Rabbit Categories of Enrichment

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REFINEMENT & ENRICHMENT ADVANCEMENTS LABORATORY
Lower Value Enrichment

*Provide value but for short periods of time

Various Toys

Cardboard in cage door

Wood Blocks and Wood Chew Sticks
Cageboard Springs
(Lower Value)

Cut long strips and fold one over the other!

Make different sizes by changing width of strips

Photo Credit: Jenny Jones
Cageboard Flowers
(Lower Value)

1. Cut a square with a tail

2. Fringe square

3. Wrap tail around base

Please contact us with questions about re-using or re-purposing this content at your institution.
Coffee Filter Flowers
(Lower Value, can be Higher Value if made into a foraging board)

Cut small holes in paper plates and add coffee filter “flowers”

Can be used as a foraging board by adding treats
Higher Value Enrichment Items
Destructibles/Foraging Items

Hay Stuffed Ball
Tubes Stuffed with Hay or Shredded Paper
*Plastic tubes or Cardboard
Box Stuffed with Hay/Treats
Bag Stuffed with Hay/Treats

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# CREATING DESTRUCTIBLE ENRICHMENT FOR RABBITS

## 1. Get Something To Stuff
- Hay ball
- Plastic tube
- Spiral wire feeder
- Whisks
- Small litter pans
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper bags
- Take out containers
- Paper tubes

## 2. Stuff It
- Hay
- Envirodry
- Paper Bags (layer or crumple up)
- Tissue Paper
- Coffee Filters
- Treats (as listed in Approved Rabbit Food List)
- Cardboard
- Cage board

## 3. Mix It Up
- Spiral Wire Feeders and Whisks can be hung on cage side
- Add additional layers
  - A box within a bag
  - A bag within a bag within a box
  - A box within a box… etc…😊
- BE CREATIVE!

- Autoclave all materials (not food) that cannot be sanitized
- Remove tape from cardboard
- Monitor animals interactions with any enrichment

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Higher Value Enrichment Items
Supervised Play Time

Make sure to include
◦ Hiding spots for each rabbit
◦ Multiple spots for food and water
◦ Multiple pieces of enrichment

Photo Credit: Alexis Morgan
Higher Value Enrichment Items
Food Treats

- Can be fresh, frozen or dried but should be provided in a way that the rabbit has to work to access the food

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Supplemental Enrichment
*Never provided as the ONLY enrichment item

Low Volume Instrumental Music
- Only use music without lyrics/human voices
- On Timer
- 8 Hours MAX

White Noise Machine
- On Timer
- 8 Hours MAX

Grooming Brush
- Only if the rabbit does not appear stressed
Miscellaneous Tips

- Vary categories and items within each category at enrichment change to maintain novelty.

- All paper materials must be autoclaved before use.

- Cardboard paper tubes are not recycled (institutional standard), only sterile tubes purchased from a vendor are used.

- For rabbit enrichment questions, contact the University of Michigan Animal Enrichment Coordinator at jonesjz@umich.edu.