



## RABBIT TOYS AND ENRICHMENT

One of the keys to a happy and healthy rabbit is an environment that provides them the opportunity to act like rabbits and display their natural behaviors. Anything that allows this is considered “enrichment”. Behaviors that are natural to a rabbit are digging, chewing and hiding. Care must be taken to ensure that enrichment toys items are safe, both in materials used to make them and the integrity of their structure.

### TOYS:

You can find prefabricated enrichment items appropriate for rabbits at just about any pet store or even re-purpose any number of items you use in your kitchen or for crafting. Many bird toys can easily be enjoyed by a rabbit. It’s important that the materials that make up these items are safe for the rabbit i.e. they don’t have any small parts that can be swallowed, eaten or contain chemicals. Below are examples of store bought, toy-based enrichment items:



### HOMEMADE ENRICHMENT:

With some of the basic materials you probably already have in your home, you can make a mind-engaging enrichment device for you bunny. Again, stick to materials that are safe for a rabbit. Here are some, of many, examples depicting home or handmade enrichment items:



### INCORPORATING FOOD:

Novel food items by themselves can be considered enrichment, but any food item can be incorporated into a toy. Having food inside will stimulate a rabbit to “work” for their food by triggering a foraging response. With that said, it is imperative that their daily caloric intake be accounted for when using food as or with enrichment.

### RABBITS LIKE TO DECORATE!

Rabbits are very fond of picking items up with their mouth, placing, moving or even throwing them. Sometimes the placement of these items is deliberate and sometimes it is random. The behavior of tearing, moving, chewing and throwing items in their space is called “decorating”.