
Junior ZooKeepers: Treasure Tubes for Cats



Activity

- Part of enrichment is knowing the animal as a species and an individual before setting the goals of the enrichment design. Understanding typical cat behavior, and your individual cat's behavior, will help you create an activity that is entertaining and safe for your pet.
 - **Knowing the species:** Cats are curious and inquisitive. They sometimes use their paws to manipulate objects and play.
 - **Knowing the individual:** The cat in the pictures, named Po, is toothless, so he received a purposefully simple design. The treat, a pill pocket (without a pill), is soft and bitesize, therefore not requiring teeth to break it into smaller pieces. Plus it sticks to the tube.
 - **Goals:** Po will use his head (pushing) and paws (batting or reaching in) to manipulate the toilet paper tube to get the treat out. He will not be inclined to bite the toilet paper tube to get the treat.

Try it out!

Materials

- Toilet paper tube
- Cat treat

Steps

1. Collect a **toilet paper tube**.
2. Put 1 **cat treat** inside the tube.
3. Serve and document!
4. Repurpose the toilet paper tube for another enrichment project or compost it.

Notes

- **Evaluation:** Po spent 2 minutes pushing the enrichment around with his head before being able to reach it with a paw. He did not bite the toilet paper tube.
- **Readjustment:** For now, this enrichment design will not be adjusted. Once Po gets the treat within 30 seconds, it might be upgraded to a paper towel tube with holes cut in it.