

Junior ZooKeepers: Whack-a-Carrot



Try it out!

Materials

- Medium to large box
- Paper based tape (masking tape, painter's tape, washi tape)
- Optional: washable markers or nontoxic paint
- Boxcutter or pocket knife
- Treat (dog treat or carrot - should be long)

Steps

1. Get a **medium to large box**.
 - a. Keep in mind that the safest tape for any animal is paper tape without nylon strings.
 - b. If your ideal box has plastic tape or nylon strings, detape. Retape with a **paper based tape**, such as masking, painter's or washi tape.
2. Optional: decorate with **washable markers or nontoxic paint** (in moderation).
3. Make sure that one end of the box is open (this will be where you put your hand in with the chosen dog treat)
4. ***WITH AN ADULT*** Use a **boxcutter or pocket knife** to cut out small holes across one of the large surfaces.
 - a. You can do this like a grid, or randomly. Holes can be uniform or different shapes.
5. Take a **treat**, call your dog(s) over and have them sit on one side of the box.
6. Put your hand and the treat in the other side of the box and make the treat "pop up" through the holes.
 - a. If your dog(s) appear to get frustrated, do not keep playing with them, reward them for participating. Remember one of the goals of any enrichment is setting your animal up for success.



Adjustment for Cats

- Cats do not usually have such large treats, so to adjust this enrichment for them you'll be using a toy of some kind. When moving the toy in and out of the holes, make your movements quick. That way you are stimulating their natural hunting instincts to chase.
- If the toy is small or short, make sure you wear protective gloves—though cats may love their humans, it is natural for their claws to come out when they are using their hunting instincts!

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