

Chinchilla Enrichment



Enrichment is very important for the mental wellbeing of your chinchilla. They are very active and curious creatures with a lot of energy. Toys are a great way to keep your chinchilla happy and healthy!

Here are a few enrichment suggestions for you to try with your chinchilla:

Sticks

That's right, just sticks! Chinchillas LOVE to chew, so having a good variety of sticks is a good idea to help save your furniture. You can purchase chinchilla safe chew sticks from pet stores, or with a little bit of work, you can collect and prepare chew sticks yourself.

Sticks that are safe for your chinchilla include:



Apple	Cottonwood	Kiwi	Quince
Arbutus	Crabapple	Larch	Rose
Ash	Dogwood	Magnolia	Sycamore
Aspen	Elm	Manzanita	Sequoia
Bamboo	Fir	Mulberry	Redwood
Broadleaf	Grey	Ocotillo	White Birch
Blackberry	Grapevine	Pear	Willow (not white)
Black Currant	Hawthorn	Pecan	Yucca
Cholla	Hazelnut	Poplar	

Sticks need to be cleaned, boiled, and baked before they can be given to your chinchillas. There are several great resources online to guide you through that process.

Ledges

Chinchillas are big fans of climbing and perching, so it is ideal to have lots of shelves and ledges in their habitat. A variety of shelves and ledges can be purchased from pet stores or you can make your own. Be sure to follow a guide if you make your own to ensure they will be safe for your chinchilla. Rearranging and changing out the shelves regularly helps keep things fun and interesting.



Hanging Toys

Toys that hang from the habitat are a great form of enrichment. They are often made from various kinds of wood and different textures that your chinchilla will love to chew. There is also the added challenge of your chinchilla getting to the toy since it is hanging from the habitat.

Cardboard

Cardboard can be used for your chinchilla in a variety of fun ways. Fill toilet paper rolls with hay and hidden snacks for a foraging activity. Place a cardboard box in their habitat for them to hide in and chew up. You can also cut toilet paper rolls into rings and put them together to form a ball and hide treats inside.



Playhouses

Playhouses provide a place for chinchillas to jump around and explore. Playhouses can be very simple or more complex and maze-like. They can be set up either inside or outside of the habitat. Playhouses can be purchased from pet stores or you can make them yourself. More elaborate DIY playhouses can use chinchilla safe wood, PVC pipes (both small for climbing on or large for tunneling through), sisal rope, and a variety of toys.



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