

## Environmental Enrichment for Rabbits

Environmental enrichment is a fantastic way to improve your rabbit's quality of life and enrich their daily experience. Put simply, environmental enrichment is providing opportunities for your pet to engage in normal behaviours such as foraging for food, chewing, digging, exploring or any number of naturalistic behaviours they would perform in the wild. Most people provide some form of enrichment for their pet but we would like to challenge both you and your rabbits to expand upon your current repertoire!



Enrichment is an important part of rabbit ownership as it not only improves their daily experience but can also be an excellent way to prevent fighting, destructive behaviours such as chewing and digging in inappropriate places. Increasing activity can also prevent obesity.

There are countless ways you can provide enrichment for rabbits and you may want to look online for ideas on Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube etc. It is amazing what information you can find. There are also some fantastic videos on how to clicker train your rabbit, how to train rabbits to accept nail clipping, enter a pet carrier and come when called.



Remember, every pet's personality is different and one of the joys of providing new experiences for your pet is to improve their confidence and the human animal bond. Some rabbits may need to start with simple projects such as scattering herbs or pellets in a box of hay initially until they get the hang of foraging but as their confidence builds you can challenge them a little more. It is important not to make the source of enrichment too difficult to begin with or they may not understand or engage with it. Some genius rabbits require increasingly complex toys and games to stay motivated.

There are a large number of foraging toys available for rabbits but you can also make your own. Create a digging box out of a plastic storage container attached to a tunnel. Is your rabbit indoors on slippery flooring? Cover the entire floor with non slip towels rugs and blankets and watch them zoom and binky for the day! Grow pots of grass, hide forage around their play area, hang a string of cabbage leaves to encourage them to reach up for forage.

Take some inspiration from the following photos and links

<https://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/rabbit-care-advice/behaviour/enrichment/>

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/rabbits/behaviour/enrichment>

