Enrichment for your Pets at Home!

At Como Zoo, enrichment is defined as anything that changes the animal's surroundings, whether it be mental or physical stimulation. Enrichment is provided to our animals on a daily basis, and can come in many forms including puzzle feeders, novel food items and different scents.

Pets at home also benefit from enrichment the same as zoo animals. Here are two easy enrichment crafts: one for dogs and one for cats, that you can create using materials found around your house!

Ball for Cats

What you need:

- Toilet paper tube
- Scissors
- Tape
- Your cat’s favorite treats or food

What to do:

1. Using scissors, cut the toilet paper tube into 4-5 small strips. You might not use them all
2. Start by taking two strips and placing them around each other.
3. Keep adding strips until you have a ball shape. You may need to shape the ball using your hands to get the strips in place.
4. Before you add the last strip, put treats in the ball.
5. Use a little tape at the top of the strips to hold the ball in place.
6. Give to your cat to enjoy! Note: ALWAYS supervise your pet when they are playing with enrichment!
Puzzle Feeder for Dogs

What you need:

- Several toilet paper tubes
- Small storage bin, Kleenex box, shoebox, or any small cardboard box
- Scissors (if using a Kleenex box)
- Your dog’s favorite treats or food

What to do:

1. If using a box with a cover or top, use scissors to cut and make an opening.
2. Place toilet paper tubes standing up-right in the box.
3. Put a few kibbles of food or small treats in some of the tubes.
4. Give to your dog to enjoy! **Note: ALWAYS supervise your pet when they are playing with enrichment!**

Tune in to Como Live on Facebook at 1:30pm to see our kudu and learn more about their care.