

Treat Piñata Enrichment

Animals in captivity need things to keep them active and physically and mentally stimulated. This is called **enrichment**. Enrichment is just as important to an animal's health as their medical care and food. At Carolina Tiger Rescue, our animals receive six different types of enrichment: food, sensory, enclosure, social, novelty, or training in the form of operant conditioning. If you have a pet at home, it is a great idea to give them different types of enrichment as well! Here we will show you how to make a treat piñata for your pet.

Supplies

- Flour
- Water
- Newspaper
- Balloon (big or small depending on the size of your pet)
- Bowl
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Treats or food that your pet can eat

1. Cover your work area with newspaper to prevent a mess.
2. Blow up your balloon and tie a knot in the end.
3. Tear leftover newspaper into strips about an inch wide.
4. In your bowl, mix flour and water into a paste.
5. Place a strip of newspaper over your balloon and paint the flour over the newspaper until it sticks to the balloon.
6. Repeat step 5 until the whole balloon is covered, leaving just a small area around the knot exposed.
7. Let dry overnight.
8. Cut a hole near the knot and pull all the balloon pieces out of the newspaper - you should now have a hollow newspaper ball!
9. Have an adult help you poke or cut holes in the sides of your ball.
10. Place treats or food inside the newspaper and place it in front of your pet.
11. Observe how they react! Enjoy watching them have fun with their enrichment but make sure they don't eat the whole ball.



Do they roll or shake the treats out?

Do they crush the piñata?

Next time try a different size balloon or different treats!

What other enrichment ideas can you come up with for your pet?

