



Enrichment Safety Tips

Whether you're making toys following the instructions on SPCA's Kids' Portal, or you're creating your own enrichment toys, safety is extremely important! Check out our safety tips below:

- Remember to always check with an adult before giving an animal enrichment items - this includes toys and food.
- Animals should always be supervised when playing with enrichment toys.
- If using any glue, dye, or paint make sure that it is non-toxic to animals.
- Avoid staples, exposed nails, and sharp components as they may injure animals.
- Please no pipe cleaners, they are often too sharp and the metal may be toxic.
- Make sure that there are no pieces on toys that an animal could pull off. For example, no buttons or any small objects attached to toys that an animal can chew/pull off and choke on.
- Rubber bands are a definite NO! These are easily eaten and can cause serious damage to an animal.
- String or thread can be swallowed, so never leave it laying around, and never allow animals to play with such items without supervision. If string or thread is swallowed, it can lead to serious, life-threatening issues.
- Do not use anything with plant parts without first checking that the plant is safe and non-toxic to animals.
- Pick up all toys of a potentially harmful nature (string, rubbery items, etc.) before you finish supervising your animal's playtime.
- When playing with cats - watch for claws! Even the gentlest and loving cat can get carried away when excited, so don't get your hands too close during playtime. If you do get bitten or scratched, tell an adult immediately.
- Do not ever use plastic bags as toys. Animals can get caught in bags and/or choke on small pieces of plastic they bite or scratch off the bag.
- Do not let a cat or any other animal play unsupervised with a toy dangling from a string that has been tied to something. They could become tangled.

