

Enrichment is used in zoos to allow an animal to show natural behaviours like hunting or looking for food . Keepers can use enrichment to mirror the animals natural environment or to focus on one behaviour . But did you know enrichment is also given to our pets at home?

Giving your pet toys, walks or treats is also enrichment as it gets the animal to behave in ways you want it to, but also is fun for your pet!

How to make paper mâché balloon enrichment at home

You will need:

1 mug of plain flour

2 mugs of warm water (may need adult guidance)

A pinch of salt

1 mixing bowl

1 whisk or spoon

Plain paper

1 balloon

Method:

Step 1: Put the flour into the mixing bowl (does not need to be sieved) and slowly add the water, mixing as you pour. You may only need 2 mugs of water if the paste is thicker than the consistency of custard.



Step 2: Once the water and flour have been mixed, add a pinch of salt and mix for another 10-15 seconds. This will help bind the flour and water to the paper

Step 3: Tear the paper into strips, they do not have to be the same size or shape.



Step 4: Then blow up the balloon to the size you want it and place the bottom into a mug or bowl to keep it secure.

Worksheet by: Georgina Kiff

What animals can you give a paper mâché balloon to?:



Can you circle which animals are pets and which are zoo animals? Are there some animals that can be both?

Step 5: Gently place a strip of paper into the paste, using the side of the bowl to wipe off extra paste.



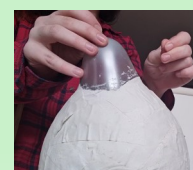
Step 6: Place onto the balloon and smooth it out, ensuring that it sticks to the balloon.



Step 7: Keep sticking the paper onto the balloon until you cover it up to the base. Repeat to make a second layer.



Step 8: Use a sharp object such as scissors or a pin to pop the balloon once dry. **Adult supervising/guidance needed.**



Step 9: you can cut holes in the balloon (**adult guidance**) and fill it with food or bedding and give to an animal

