



# San Diego Humane Society's Critter Kids NEWS

## Volume 6 / Issue 3

Welcome to San Diego Humane Society's Critter Kids News. We hope you have fun learning all about pets and wildlife in San Diego!

Campus locations in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego

619-299-7012  
sdhumane.org



## Shelter Mews

Did you know providing your pet with activities that mimic their natural instincts will help keep them healthier and happier?

This is called enrichment! Enrichment activities are mentally stimulating and often incorporate the animal's sense of sight, smell or sound. San Diego Humane Society provides animals in our care with enrichment opportunities during their stays, such as puzzle feeders and interactive toys. At home, you can hide treats around your house for a kitty scavenger hunt, play a game of hide-and-seek with your dog, or build a maze for your guinea pig or rabbit to explore! Enrichment can be a lot of fun for both you and your pet!



## Wildlife Window



Have you ever seen birds playing with sticks? Did you know raccoons wash rocks in streams?

Wild animals enjoy enrichment just as much as our pets do! Our ambassador animals need the same chance to exercise their brains as animals in the wild. At Project Wildlife, we give our ambassador animals things to do during the day or night that encourage them to perform behaviors that they would do in nature. Opossums use their noses everywhere they go, so we add different scents to their enclosures. Hawks like to use their talons, so cardboard or newspaper allows them to engage in their natural behavior of tearing things apart. Take a look outside and see if you notice wild animals around your house playing chase or using tools — that's enrichment!

## Meet Our Staff

### Meet Maxine

Maxine is an animal trainer at San Diego Humane Society. Her positive training methods include using various enrichment tools for our shelter animals. She uses fun puzzle toys, so animals have to use their senses and brains to get treats out. She takes dogs for slow walks so they can use their noses to sniff the new things in the environment. Maxine uses enrichment to help reinforce positive behaviors in animals, like staying calm when meeting new people or walking nicely on leash. She loves educating adopters about animal behavior and teaching them how to form a stronger bond with their new pet!





# Lend a Paw

Instead of recycling your empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls, save them for this enrichment activity for your pet!

### Supplies:

Cardboard roll from toilet paper or paper towels, scissors, yummy treats (any kind your pet likes)

### Steps:

1. Cut small slits around the edge of each end of the tube.
2. On one end of the tube, fold all of the slits inward to cover the hole.
3. Using the open end, fill the tube with a small handful of your pet's favorite treats.
4. Fold the open side of the tube inward to close it. If your pet has a tough time getting the treats out, only fold some of the slits, so there's a way for treats to fall out.
5. Give it to your furry friend to enjoy!



# Brain Teaser

Cat trees help cats express natural behaviors like scratching and perching up high to observe their surroundings. Can you spot the cat tree that looks different?



# Color Me

Having a buddy can be the best enrichment for our small animal friends!



Check out our website at [sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org) for other fun events going on at San Diego Humane Society!

**Join us for onsite programs:** Pet Pals, Paws and Paperbacks and Mini Camp

**Join us for virtual programs:** Humane at Home Facebook Live every Friday at 3 p.m. and Camp in a Box