

## Human Impact Lab: Ask a Veterinarian

### Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center is an ocean conservation organization and sea turtle hospital located adjacent to one of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches in the world. The Center features an on-site campus hospital, research laboratory, educational exhibits and aquariums, and also operates the Juno Beach Pier, which hosts world-class angling and sightseeing. The Center's conservation team works with 76 local and international organizations across six continents to form partnerships and share conservation initiatives and best practices that are core to its mission of ocean conservation. The Center is expanding and has launched its Waves of Progress capital expansion campaign, designed to accelerate and amplify LMC's conservation and education impact.

Our mission is to promote conservation of ocean ecosystems with a special focus on threatened and endangered sea turtles. Our vision is to be recognized locally and internationally as the leading authority in sea turtle education, research and rehabilitation.



### Lesson Objectives

- I can explain what a veterinarian does
- I can identify the global importance of careers in marine science
- I can observe animals and the natural behaviors they use

### Vocabulary

- **Rehabilitation:** restoration especially by therapeutic means to an improved condition of physical function
- **Enrichment:** a process for improving or enhancing animal environments and care within the context of their inhabitants' behavioral biology and natural history.
- **Veterinarian:** a person qualified to treat diseased or injured animals.
- **STEM:** subjects in school that falls under Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.
- **Stimuli:** something that rouses activity or energy an animal.



Visit [Marinelife.org](http://Marinelife.org) to learn more about Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center!

# At-Home Enrichment

At Loggerhead Marineline Center (LMC), we use enrichment devices that are made out of PVC pipes to serve as an environmental stimuli for our sea turtles patients during their rehabilitation at LMC. These enrichment devices allow for our patients to use behaviors that they would naturally use out in the wild. Enrichment can be used for our pets at home as well! Using puzzle feeders, toys, and providing training allow us to stimulate our pets.

## Pet Enrichment

You can provide enrichment for your dogs, cat, hamster, birds, etc. in a wide variety of ways! With this activity, you will be making puzzle feeder out of toilet paper rolls. Follow the steps below to keep your dog/cat stimulated while eating their food.

### Materials:

Toilet paper roll

Pet dry food

### Directions:

1. Take an empty toilet paper roll and fold in the ends on one side
2. Pour a small portion of your pet's dry food into the open end of the toilet paper roll
3. Fold the open end of the toilet paper roll so that both sides are now closed
4. Repeat steps 1-3 if you would like to give your pet multiple puzzle feeders
5. Give to your pet to enjoy!

At Loggerhead Marineline Center, we observe our patients to keep track of the behaviors that they are using while interacting with the enrichment we provide them. You can do this at home and identify behaviors that might be unique to your pet!

When observing your pet as it interacts with the enrichment you made, ask yourself the following questions:

1. How does my pet get the food out of the enrichment device?
  - a. Are they using just their mouth or holding it down with their paws/feet?
2. What senses do they use to identify their enrichment?
  - a. Do they use their sense of smell? What about sense of sight?
3. How long does my pet interact with the enrichment?
  - a. Do they interact with the enrichment until all the food is gone?
  - b. Do they interact with the enrichment for a short period of time and then come back later?
4. What other types of enrichment can I make that will help my pet use their natural behaviors?



Side View



Top View

## DIY Bird Feeders

Bird feeders can be made to provide enrichment for the wild birds that may be around your home! Follow the steps below to make a DIY bird feeder out of items you may have in your home.

### Materials:

Empty tin can  
Can opener  
Popsicle stick, dowel rod, or stick  
Glue (hot or super glue work best)  
Ribbon or Yarn  
Wild Bird Seeds  
Acrylic Paint & Paint Brushes (if wanted for decoration)

### Directions:

1. Take an empty tin can and completely remove the lid off of one side with a can opener
2. Wash out the tin can with water to ensure it is clean
3. Decorate the tin can with paint
4. Use the can opener to open a small section of the unopened side of the tin can
5. Run ribbon or yarn through the small section on one side and out the open end of the other side
6. Glue a stick or dowel rod onto the inside of the tin can
7. Fill with wild bird seed!
8. Hang in a tree that is outside of your home and watch as birds come to eat!

If you do not have wild bird seed at home, you can use sunflower seeds, peanuts, cracked corn, and dried fruit!



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