

The Association for **Animal Welfare Advancement**



CAT ENRICHMENT NEEDS

DAILY Enrichment Needs

- A comfortable resting/sleeping surface inside the animal's enclosure at all times
 - Light and darkness should support the natural (circadian) rhythms of wakefulness and sleep
- Access to a scratching surface
 - Carpet, sisal, cardboard, etc.
- Access to at least one novel toy
 - Ball, mouse, catnip filled, Hex bug, etc.
- Social interaction (minimum of 15 minutes)
- A place to perch as well as a place to hide
- Physical exercise
 - Feather dancer toys, laser lights, balls, cat wheel, etc.

Rotation of enrichment choices – Pick two from the following list. Choices should rotate daily to avoid habituation which can devalue the benefits of enrichment

Auditory

- Sound machine
- Recording of birds chirping
- Classical Music
- Water fountain

Olfactory

- Catnip
- Pheromones
- Essential oils

- Dry spices
- Synthetic prey scents
- Hidden treats

Visual

- Access to a window
- Access to watch a bird feeder outside
- Mobiles
- Bubble machine
- Lava lamps
- Eternal pendulum

Mental Stimulation

Operant, positive-reinforcement training

Please note special consideration should be given to kittens under the age of 7 weeks. Please see "Social Interaction" in the Animal Enrichment Model Practice.