

Small Animal Activity Selection Chart

Before planning your enrichment program, use the MAKE A PLAN process on the [shelterhealthpro](#) website. The animal must be assessed for individual needs to determine what types of enrichment, activities, or games will benefit the individual animal.

Enrichment is:

- An on-going process, not a single object or event
- Only enriching if the animal chooses to interact with it or is affected positively by it
- Specific to the animal based on its assessment ([See Animal Assessment](#)).

A daily enrichment schedule includes all opportunities for enriching the animal's life. It incorporates a combination of sensory, physical, environmental, cognitive and social activities.

Small Animal Activity Selection Chart

Activity	Frequency	Type of Stimulation	Especially good for:	Personnel Required	Notes
Exercise Pen	Daily	Cognitive/ Physical	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits	Staff & Volunteers	Exercise pen with not slip floor. Make sure food and water is always available
Exercise Room	Daily	Cognitive/ Physical	Ferrets	Staff & Volunteers	Closed room with no escape routes. Climbing trees or hiding boxes.
Scent of the Day	Daily	Olfactory	Rabbits, Guinea Pigs	Staff & Volunteers	For prey animals use herbs and spices such as dill, include basil, oregano, parsley, dill, cilantro, rosemary, sage, tarragon, lavender, peppermint, lemon balm, comfrey and clover.
Treats and chews	Daily	Oral/Tactile/ Cognitive	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits/Ferrets	Staff & Volunteers	Relieves boredom, provide a different variety of choices daily such as fresh fruits and veggies, wood blocks, paper rolls etc.

Toys	Daily	Cognitive/Physical/Tactile	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits/Ferrets	Staff & Volunteers	Any type of toy they can carry, bury, or push around.Ex: Rabbits really like balls.
Visitation	Daily	Cognitive/Social	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits/Ferrets	Staff & Volunteers	Physical handling (petting, holding) and use soft voice.
Grooming	Twice per week	Social	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits/Ferrets	Staff & Volunteers	Physical handling (petting, holding) and use soft voice Variety of brushes, nail trim
Reading Program	Daily	Social	Guinea Pigs/Rabbits/Ferrets/ Birds	Staff & Volunteers	A good book, and someone to read it. Sit in the room or near the cage, allow animal to choose physical contact
Agility	Once per week	Cognitive/Physical/Tactile/Social	Rabbits	Staff & Volunteers trained in Clicker Training	One or two agility pieces (jump/ramp), clickers and treats. Quiet, escape free, space
Clicker Training	Once per week	Cognitive/Physical/Tactile/Social	Rabbits/Birds	Staff & Volunteers trained in Clicker Training	Clickers and treats. Quiet, escape free, space
Hiding	Daily	Stress reduction/Tactile/Cognitive	All	Staff & Volunteers	Ensure a hiding space suitable to the species is available in all enclosures (even when using exercise pen)
White Noise Machine	Daily	Stress Reduction	All	Staff & Volunteers	A white noise machine placed in the small animal room can help reduce the impact of outside noise, such as barking dogs, PA systems