

What is ENRICHMENT?

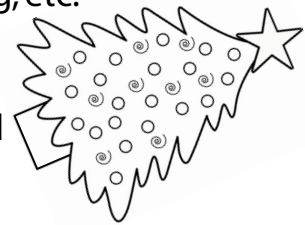
"Enrichment" is a word that means keeping wild cats in captivity entertained. Wild cats are highly intelligent, which often translates to "easily bored."

Responsible caretakers provide toys and activities to keep their wild cats happy. It's not as easy as walking into a pet store to stock up on cougar toys!



Nature can provide enrichment: birds and insects flying around, new grass and plants growing and flowering, etc.

Discarded Christmas trees (decorations removed!) can create hours of fun for a wild cat - hiding, tearing it up, pouncing on it, dragging it around!

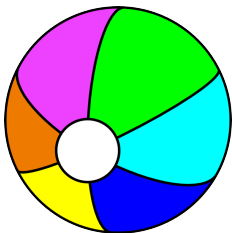


Another favorite (especially for the bigger wild cats) are pumpkins to be batted and dragged around... then eaten!

It is natural for a wild cat to sharpen its claws. Logs and stumps in its habitat (cage) can be very entertaining for scratching, jumping and climbing.

Enrichment can also be different types of food or interesting smells for the wild cat to enjoy. And, of course, there's also CATNIP! Many, but not all, wild cats enjoy catnip and other fresh herbs. They also like some fresh vegetables and fruits - although wild cats are "carnivores" which means their diet is usually made up of entirely meat.

Cardboard boxes (no staples!) can also provide hours of fun for hiding in and tearing up.



And, of course, there are also balls like tennis balls and 'Jolly' balls (made for horses). These can be on the ground or hanging in their habitat.

Now you get the idea... enrichment is providing fun and games for the wild cats!