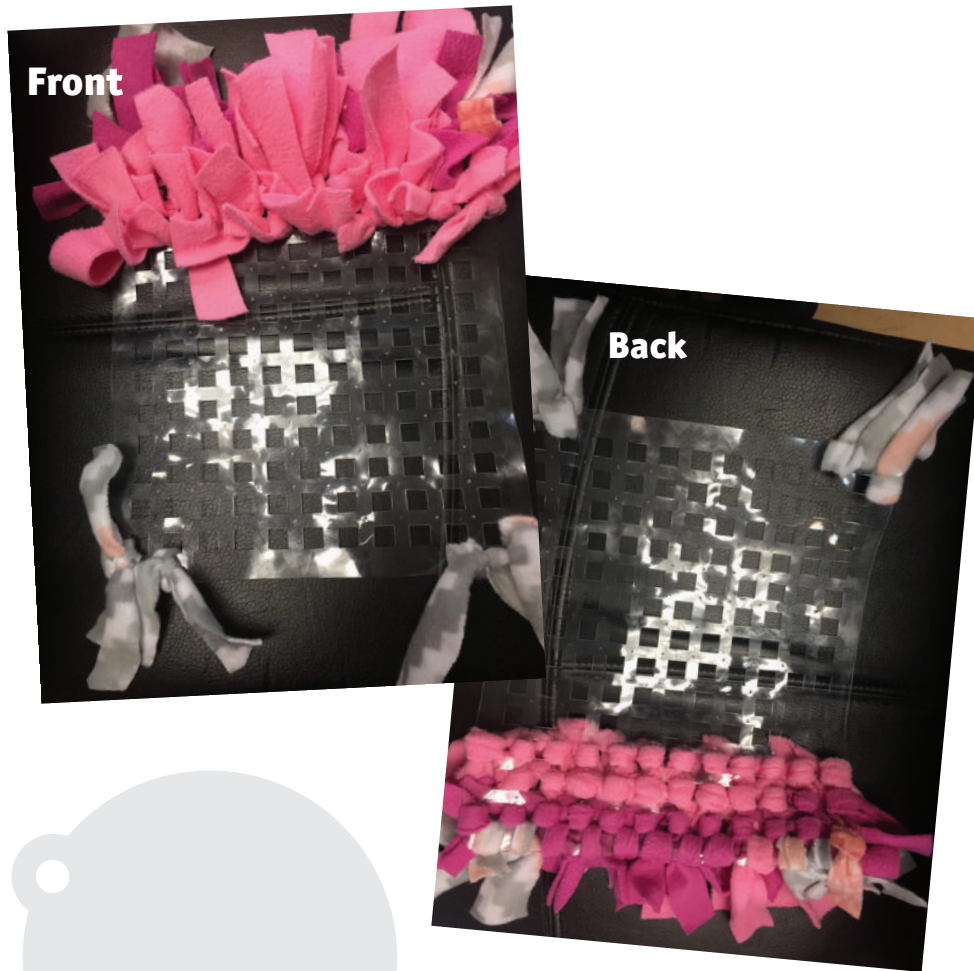


Our pets' sense of smell is far superior to our own. Sniffing is a natural behavior and opportunities to sniff are enriching and stimulate the mind. The sniffing mat activity promotes calm and relaxation while fulfilling an instinctual behavior.



Make your own mat with a plastic sink mat from the dollar store. Cut 1½" by 12 strips of a t-shirt or fleece and tie a strip securely through each hole in the sink mat.

Introduce the sniffing mat activity to your pet:

Dogs

You will want your dog to learn this is a sniffing game and the mat is not a toy. Introduce the mat by placing a trail of treats leading to it that your dog can follow with his nose. Scatter the treats throughout the mat and let your dog continue to sniff and search.

Cats

Start by placing the treats where they can easily be seen on the mat for your cat who will search first with her eyes. When your cat has learned the mat means she will get treats, hide treats in the fringy strips to be found.

Rabbits

If your rabbit is not enticed to chew the fabric, he can forage in a sniffing mat.

Tips

- Always supervise your pet with new toys.
- Many very tiny treats are more fun than a couple of big treats.
- Allow your pet to continue to sniff the mat even if you know all the treats are gone!
- Always pick up the mat when the game is done so that it is not chewed in frustration when there are no treats left.
- The game is over when the pet walks away.

AnimalFriends
How to make your own
**Sniffing
Mat**



Scan this code for more enrichment ideas from Animal Friends!



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