# **Simple Food Dispenser**

This toy can give your rabbit hours (or more) of fun. It will give your rabbit a chance to roll it and toss it around while they figure out how to get the treats out.

Supplies needed: A toilet paper roll, Scissors or a razor, Rabbit treats or pellets



1) Cut holes in the tube; 2) Fold over the ends of the tube; 3) Place rabbit food or treats into the tube

Use the scissors or razor to cut holes into the middle of the toilet paper tube. I usually prefer to use a razor, but use whatever pointy object you are most comfortable with. You want the holes to be relatively small, but big enough that the treats will be able to fall out if the tube is tossed around.

**Fold down the ends of the toilet paper tube.** Fold down both ends of the tube so that they create a concave, arced shape. Pinch the folded edges so that the flaps at the end don't just pop back up. You want to make sure the treats won't be able to fall out of the ends of the tube.

Place treats or pellets into the tube. Lift up the flaps on one end and place the treats inside, then fold the flaps back down. I usually like to use a little bit of my rabbits pellets instead of sugary treats. That way I don't risk giving her too many.

That was easy! Give it to your rabbit and see how long it takes them to figure out how to get the treats out. Maybe they'll try to chew through the cardboard tube to get to the treat, or maybe they'll figure out how to toss it around to get the treats faster. Either way, it's a fun toy, and it's always cute to watch the silly rabbit figure it out.

#### **Hidden Treat Ball**

Create a compact ball for your rabbit to chew through and find a treat inside. It will encourage the rabbit to chew and grind down their teeth while they figure out the puzzle.

Supplies needed: Scissors, A toilet paper roll, Rabbit pellets or treats



1) Cut the cardboard tube into 4 pieces; 2) Put one piece inside the other; 3) Put the two pieces into the third piece; 4) Place a treat inside the ball; 5) Add the fourth cardboard piece over top to complete the ball

**Cut the toilet paper roll into four pieces.** It doesn't have to be exact, but you want to make the pieces as even as possible. I will usually cut the tube in half, and then cut both sections in half again to get four small rings.

**Put one piece sideways inside another.** Create the beginning of the treat ball by putting one piece inside the other like a cross.

Squeeze the two pieces together to fit them inside a third section of the tube. It can be a little bit of a squeeze to get the two rings to fit inside the third, so smush them in whatever ways you need to for them to fit through.

Place a treat or pellets into the ball that's forming. Now that the ball is beginning to form, put some treats inside. You *can* wait until the end to put the treats in, but the gaps will be much smaller and difficult to squeeze the treats through. I usually use a small piece of dried papaya or dried strawberry, placing it into the ball after the third ring is added.

Squeeze the fourth piece of the tube over the others to complete the ball. Place the fourth cardboard ring over top of the first three to make the final treat ball. You can feel free to squeeze and shift the pieces around however you need to in order to cover any large gaps that are left. You want to give your rabbit the chance to chew through the cardboard, instead of letting the treat fall out.

Give the toy to your rabbit and see what they do with it. They should be able to smell the yummy treat that's hiding inside the ball and be excited to try to figure out how to get at it. The overlapping cardboard pieces will give the rabbit places where they can try to chew through, eventually letting them into the treasure trove inside the little hidden treat ball.

## **Hanging Tubes**

Give your curious rabbits the chance to tug and pull on a toy hanging on the side of their enclosure. You can hide treats in the middle of the tubes along with your rabbit's hay or daily leafy greens.

Supplies needed: A pen (or similar pointy object), 3 or 4 cardboard tubes, Twine or string, Hay or leafy greens, Rabbit treats



1) Poke holes in the tubes; 2) Tie a knot in the string and thread the first tube; 3) Make two knots above the first tube; 4) Thread the second tube and tie two knots above it; 5) Repeat with the remaining tubes; 6) Stuff hay into tubes; 7) Hide a treat in each tube; 8) Hang the toy for your rabbit

**Poke holes in the centre of each of the tubes.** I use a pen to poke a round hole in the top and bottom of each tube. Try to make sure the holes are lined up on the top and bottom in the centre of each toilet paper roll.

Tie a big knot at one end of the string and thread it through the first tube. Make sure the knot at the end of the string is big enough that the tube won't end up sliding off the end.

**Tie two more knots in the string above the first tube.** Make the first knot above the tube to keep it in place. Then the second knot will be the base of the second tube, so make sure you make the knot big enough that the tube won't just slide over it.

Thread the second tube onto the string and make two knots above it. After you've placed the second tube on the string, make the same knots above this one. The first to keep the tube in place, and the second to be the base of the third tube.

**Repeat with the remaining toilet paper tubes.** You can use as many toilet paper tubes as you like. I usually use three or four when I'm making this hanging toy. After you've finished adding the cardboard tubes, make sure you have enough excess string on the top to tie the toy to the edge of their cage (or wherever you plan on hanging it).

**Stuff a handful of hay or leafy greens into each toilet paper roll.** This part gets a little messy as the hay gets everywhere. Take some generous handfuls of hay or greens and get them inside the cardboard tubes. This will take a little bit of stuffing, but don't worry, it doesn't have to look neat.

**Hide a treat in the centre of each tube.** After you've managed to get the hay or greens into the cardboard tubes, take a piece of treat and push it into the middle of each of the tubes. You want to stuff it in as far as it will go so that your rabbit will have to do a little bit of work to figure out how to get it out.

Using the excess string, hang the toy so your rabbit can play with it. Once the toy is complete, you can tie the toy wherever you want for your rabbit to play with it. I usually hang this toy up on the side of my rabbit's enclosure.

Watch as your rabbit curiously tugs and chews on the toy to try to get the yummy food and treats from the inside. This toy can get pretty messy, especially if you use hay, because the food falls everywhere around the base of the toy. You can reuse this toy for a number of days until your rabbit manages to completely destroy it.

### **Hidden Treat Puzzle Platform**

Create a platform with 9 pieces the rabbit can lift up. There will be a treat under one of the pieces and the rabbit has to figure out which one covers the treat.

Supplies needed: An empty tissue box, 3 toilet paper rolls, Scissors or a razor, Treats, Optional: a ruler and a pen



1) Cut off the top of the tissue box; 2) Cut the cardboard tubes in half; 3) Fold down one end of each of the halved tubes; 4) Arrange the tubes in the tissue box; 5) Hide a treat under one of the cardboard tubes

**Cut the top off of the tissue box, leaving a 1-2 inch wall along the bottom.** It can be helpful to measure out and mark a line at 1-2 inches with a ruler and pen. Then you can easily cut along the line you made. I find it easier to get an even line with a ruler, but you can also use scissors since tissue boxes are thin cardboard.

**Cut all of the toilet paper tubes in half.** After you've cut them, you can discard on of the halves. You only need 6 toilet paper roll halves to complete this toy.

**Fold down one end of each toilet paper roll, making a concave arced shape.** This will give your rabbit a handle to hold each of the cardboard pieces, and it will keep the treat from falling out the end of the cardboard tube.

Arrange nine of the halved cardboard tubes inside the cut tissue box. The nine cardboard tubes should fit neatly inside the tissue box. You want to place them with the open side down.

**Hide a treat under one of the tubes.** For this toy, I don't recommend using pellets since they are too small to stay in place. But if you're looking for a healthy option, you can hide pieces of leafy greens for your rabbit to find.

Give the hidden treat platform to your rabbit and see how long it takes them to find the treat. They'll probably have a lot of fun tossing the cardboard pieces aside as they forage for the yummy treat that they smell underneath. Once your rabbit finds the treat, you can set the platform up again and give them another chance to find the hidden treat.

# **Digging Box**

Digging boxes can be incredibly useful to give rabbits who have a tendency to dig into your rug. It gives the rabbit a way to use their natural instincts in a more constructive way that won't destroy your home.

Supplies needed: A cardboard box large enough for your rabbit to fit in, a razor, a stack of old newspapers or unwanted papers, Treats or rabbit food



1) Remove tape and labels; 2) Create a base and remove the excess flaps; 3) Shred newspaper and fill the box; 4) Hide treats in the box

Remove all tape, staples and labels from the cardboard box. Cardboard is okay for your rabbit to eat a little bit, but you don't want them to eat tape, and staples could accidentally injure them.

Fold the flaps to create a base on one side, and cut off the flaps from the other side. Now that the tape isn't holding the bottom of the box together, you'll need to fold the flaps over each other to make a sturdy base. On the other end, you can use a razor to remove the flaps completely.

**Shred the newspaper until you have a pile that fills the box.** Take the stack of newspaper you have and start shredding. You can use an electric shredder if you have one, but you can also just rip up strips with your hands. Once you have the strips of paper, crumple them together to make an interesting texture for your rabbit to dig through.

Hide treats and non-pointy toys inside the box. Now all you have to do is get some treats and hide them in the digging box, so your rabbit can use their natural foraging instincts to find their food. You can use a small amount of treats, or you can hide some yummy leafy greens in the box. You can also sprinkle a handful of pellets among the crumpled up paper, along with other chew toys so your rabbit can find them. Just be careful not to hide toys with pointy edges, such as wooden blocks, since you don't want your rabbit to accidentally get injured.

After you've finished putting the box together, put it down somewhere for your rabbit can play in. This toy can end up making a big mess as your rabbit enthusiastically digs through it to find the hidden treats. Be prepared to clean up the mess, or just scoop the strips of paper back into the box for the next time your rabbit plays with it.