

Craft a **FORAGING MAT** with **ACANA™**

A great foraging mat has many types of creative puzzles or obstacles for your cat to interact with; here are some of our favorites. We used a rectangular mat and included a variety of puzzles including fabric treat pockets, a cat dish for wet food, snuffle mat, treat tube and a treat digger container.

YOU WILL NEED:

BASE

Cardboard

TREAT TUBE

Paper towel roll (or Kleenex box)

TREAT POCKET

Fabric scraps and non-toxic foam

CAT DISH

Your cat's favorite ACANA™ snacks

SNUFFLE MAT

Cardboard square and scrap fabric

(Optional: Felt, pillow case, towel or old T-shirt)

TREAT DIGGER PUZZLE

3 Small glass containers

Spring cat toys

Glue

Tape

Scissors/Exacto Knife

Ruler

ACANA™

1 BASE

MAKE IT STURDY! You don't want your cat knocking off the puzzles, so glue everything down nice and secure.

- Cut two 22"x 12" rectangles out of cardboard and glue on top of each other to make a thick base. Decorate however you like!
- Lay out your puzzle design and mark where you want everything, ensuring your cat can access it easily.

2 TREAT TUBE

Use any small box or tube-shaped piece of cardboard. Cut various holes around the tube big enough for cat paws to reach inside. More holes make it easier to grab the treats, while less holes can increase the difficulty level.

3 TREAT POCKET

- Cut scrap fabric into any fun shape you want - we created a fish.
- Cut an x shape in the middle of the fabric shape, being careful not to cut through the edges of the fabric. This will form the pocket to hold items like catnip or treats.
- Glue a foam base to the backside of your fabric pocket, making sure to only add glue along the edges- not the middle.

4 CAT DISH

We prefer using a shallow dish. Most cats have sensitive whiskers, and the shallow dish prevents them from rubbing their whiskers on the sides.

Include your cat's favorite ACANA™ wet food, kibble and Lickables treats!



Watch the DIY video:
acana.com/caring-for-indoor-cats

5 SNUFFLE MAT

- Cut a 6" x 6" cardboard square base.
- Cut 5 squares of scrap fabric or felt to the same size 6" x 6".
OPTIONAL: If you want the mat to be fuller, add more squares.
- Fold the fabric squares in half and cut small, evenly spaced slits along the fold, making sure not to cut all the way through the square.
- Stagger the folded squares on top of each other and glue the edges down to the cardboard base



6 TREAT DIGGER PUZZLE

You can use any shallow/small glassware or container that a cat's paw can fit in easily and scoop snacks out from. We picked 3 glass containers, allowing the cat to see the snacks inside. To add an element of fun, we put cat toy springs around the glasses, which can add another layer of complexity when they try to dig the treats out.



SECURE THE PUZZLES

Glue the puzzles to the base to secure them - this will prevent your cat from knocking the puzzles off. **OPTIONAL:** Add double-sided tape to the bottom of the cardboard base and stick to the floor. This will prevent the mat from sliding around as your cat interacts with the puzzles.

ADD SNACKS

Pick a variety of your cats favorite ACANA™ products for each puzzle - like the NEW ACANA™ Lickables cat treats, or Premium Pate wet cat food, or even Indoor Entree dry cat food.

- Stuff the pockets with treats or catnip.
- Pop kibble into the glasses.
- Tuck treats or kibble into the snuffle mat.
- Hide treats or kibble inside the tube.
- Add ACANA Premium Pâté™ and Lickables to the cat dish.

FINAL TOUCHES

Add enrichment options like a sprinkle of cat nip over the puzzles, or place cat oat grass and honeysuckle on the board.



Provide supervision when your cat is engaging with the forage mat

TRAINING

The best place to keep your new forage mat is near your cat's current food dish, or in one of their favorite rooms, away from lots of traffic. This allows them to focus and explore the puzzles in safety.

BE PATIENT! Your cat may not pick up the puzzles on their first try. Help them by demonstrating how to interact with the puzzles and place the treats so they are easy to see and smell.

Your cat will likely need time to warm up to their new toy. Let them explore on their own time instead of trying to force the interaction. Make it a happy experience with praise and head scratches when they do the puzzle right to reinforce the behavior.

You can increase or decrease the complexity level of the puzzles:

- **EASY:** Make bigger holes and more of them. Stage the puzzles and treats for easy access and keep puzzles simple and straightforward.
- **HARD:** Hide the treats by tucking them deep inside the toys, or add obstacles around the puzzles so your cat must navigate the board to get the treats.