Enrichment Experimentation

Zookeepers are always creating new ways to exercise the minds and bodies of the animals they care for. If you have a pet at home, you can do the same! As keepers make new enrichment, they focus on the behaviors, preferences, and needs of the animal and they consider questions similar to the ones listed below.

Animal Name and Species/Breed: ___________________________  ____________________________________

1. Design:
   Description: _________________________________________________________________________
   Category:  ☐ Sensory (experiencing senses, i.e. encountering new sights, sounds, smells, feels, or tastes)  ☐ Physical (moving their bodies, i.e. running or climbing)  ☐ Manipulative (handling or adjusting objects, i.e. working with a new toy)  ☐ Social (interacting with others, i.e. playing with people or stuffed animals)  ☐ Nutritional (eating and getting vitamins i.e. trying new foods)
   What behavior are you hoping to see when your pet uses this enrichment? _____________________________________________________
   What is the goal of using this enrichment? __________________________________________________________________________________
   How often do you plan to use it? (check one)  ☐ Daily  ☐ Weekly  ☐ Monthly  ☐ Occasionally (explain): _______________________________
   Safety Concerns: Make sure your enrichment does not cause your pet to escape, does not cause your pet to eat something that can be harmful or dangerous to them, and does not cause your pet to be injured or get trapped.
   Approval: Check this box when your enrichment has been okayed by an adult ☐

2. Testing: After giving your animal the enrichment, make sure to watch them closely to see how they are using it.
   How much did your pet interact with the enrichment? (check one)  ☐ no interaction  ☐ a little bit of interaction  ☐ interacted with and enjoyed
   What do you notice? ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
   Did this enrichment meet your goal? (check one)  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

3. Redesign: What changes would you make to your enrichment plan in the future? __________________________________________________________

Curriculum References: 3.1.3.A2, 3.4.3.C1, 3.4.3.D1, 3.4.3.D3