

Wild Toys

A good toy can make playtime way more fun. An animal that is curious and playful might even pick up something that's **edible** or useful in solving a problem.

When animals are young, their brains are changing quickly. Playing around with objects may also help to develop better thinking skills.

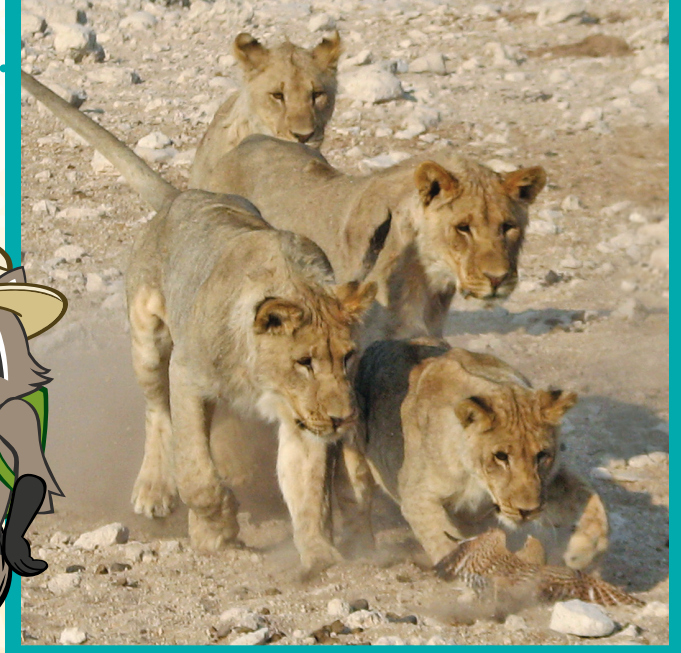


• A stick on the beach becomes a fun toy
• for this young and playful *sea lion*.



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Old rope twisted into a ball makes a fun toy for this *caracal* kitten to play with!

For these *lion cubs*, playing with a bird before gulping it down is good training for hunting.



DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING WITH THAT?



Japanese macaques (muh-KAKS) are more commonly called "snow monkeys" because they live in such cold and snowy environments. But lots of snow equals lots of fun for these three playful primates!





• A **stringy** piece of whale meat is perfect for a game of tug-of-war between two *polar bear* cubs.





..... **Tech Toy**

Zoos often try to find activities that keep their curious animals busy and happy. At the Aquarium of the Pacific in California, playtime has gone high-tech! Here, a *Magellanic penguin* named Jeremy tries to nab a **digital** mouse running across an iPad® screen.