

MUNCHKIN FORAGING BASKET

In this pamphlet I will show you how to turn the “Munchkin Deluxe Dishwasher Basket” into a cage toy that encourages foraging activity.



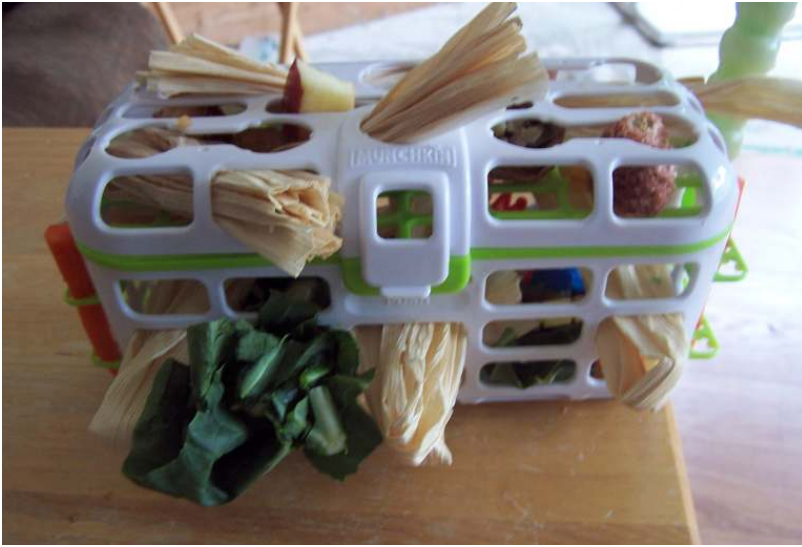
You can find these dishwasher baskets in a store’s infants department.

I found mine at our local Wal-Mart.

I thread a couple zip ties through holes at the back of the basket. Initially the zip ties kept popping out, so I held them in place with small rubber bands.



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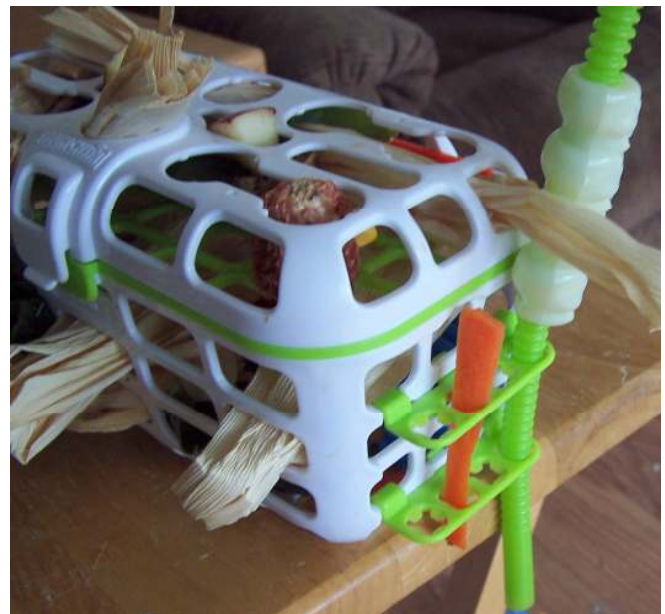


I put small foot toys, nuts, fruit and vegetables in the top and bottom compartments of the basket.

I made sure that some vegetables stuck out the holes at the front of the basket. That's a collard green leaf you see in the front of this one.

I made the foraging experience more complex by weaving dried corn husks in a few of the holes for shredding.

The basket has straw cleaning racks on each side to hold straws upright for sanitary cleaning. I used the racks to hold veggie sticks and toy straws.



When I was satisfied I had the basket sufficiently stuffed, I attached it to the cage bars. The zip ties were held in place by small rubber bands which I slid off right before I threaded each zip tie through the cage bars. It is important to remove the rubber bands before attaching the basket to the cage because you wouldn't want your parrot to swallow or get tangled up in the rubber band.

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Leigh Ann Hartsfield shared her idea for an easier way to put the Munchkin Foraging Basket in the cage.

She zip tied it to a cage shelf and then hung the shelf in the cage.

The cages shelf pictured here is a Prevue Pet Patio Sundeck for birds.



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The “Munchkin Deluxe Dishwasher Basket” is a huge hit as a foraging toy in my house. You can also use it as it was originally designed and place parrot toy parts in the basket to be washed in the dishwasher.



Ditto, left, and Buddy, below, with their first Munchkin Foraging Baskets.

In these first baskets, I didn't stuff them as full and made sure the veggies, fruit, nuts and foot toys were relatively easy to get at.



Ditto, left, shredding a corn husk, trying to get at what is inside his Munchkin Basket.

Once they catch on to foraging, I make the foraging experience more complex by adding in more items, covering some with corn husks or unbleached coffee filters. Some items are easy to get at and some are buried a little deeper in the basket.

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