

# ENRICHMENT & WELLNESS ITEMS

The following items should be in the bag, if they are not let someone in education know. If you discover a new problem with any biofact (broken pieces, loose teeth, etc.), it is your responsibility to let the staff know **and** make a notation with the date, time and your name on the sign out clipboard.

**Note:** Please return all items to their appropriate place on the cart, and make sure lids and bungee cords are secured. Things should be left exactly as you found them.

**Note:** Do not try to open the Lucite containers with the food. We are trying to prevent animals from getting into the bone room.

\* **Note:** Enrichment Items are stored in closet across from bone room and should not be brought into bone room.

## ENRICHMENT AND ANIMAL WELLNESS INVENTORY

- Heavy Duty Trash can from Lions
- Red boomer ball from lions
- 2 maracas – different sounds for training
- Clicker with training stick
- Fire hose for gorillas
- Primate feeder with cloth strips and spiders as food
- Baggie filled with 5 different fabric samples
- Lucite box with wood fiber and 20 washers for food searching
- 6 Enrichment Scents in small container
- Enrichment Resource Notebook

**Note:** Please do not bring enrichment items into bone room. We are trying to prevent animals, such as moths) from getting into the bone room. All enrichment items are stored in the closet between the two classrooms.

## ENRICHMENT & WELLNESS ITEMS TALKING POINTS

### WHAT IS ENRICHMENT?

During special events, visitors may see animal habitats filled with papier-mâché creatures, carved pumpkins, wrapped gifts, ice sculptures, unusual cakes, and even snow. Not only is it a treat to watch the animals enjoying specially created food and play items, but the animals benefit from the enhanced sensory stimulation provided by the enrichment objects.

Enrichment is offered to our animals every day with varied food choices, often hidden to encourage foraging and problem-solving; large "Boomer Balls" that are not only toys, they can also be filled with feed pellets that fall out when rolled a certain way; items sprayed with scents from other animals; or even the design of the exhibits to resemble a natural habitat. All of our animals large and small – from the chickens in the Family Farm to the reptiles in the Koret Animal Resource Center to the tallest giraffe – receive a variety of enrichment rotated daily. We even tailor enrichment to specific animal personalities such as our chimp Tallulah, who is particularly fond of wrapping herself in a blanket and flipping through a magazine to enjoy the pictures.

Although most of the animals in zoos were bred in captivity and have never lived in the wild, captive breeding has not removed their natural, wild instincts. Since everything is provided for them – food, water, shelter, and safety – enrichment provides psychological and physical challenges to keep them active and interested in their surroundings.

Generally, enrichment can be divided into several basic types:

- **Environmental Enrichment** Items - Objects that can be manipulated by the animal such as novel items or toys
- **Habitat Enrichment** - Habitat design, substrates, water features, etc.
- **Sensory Enrichment** - Designed to address the animal's sense of smell, touch, hearing, vision, and taste and elicit species-specific responses including territorial, reproductive or hunting behaviors
- **Food Enrichment** - Increased variety, foraging opportunities and problem solving to get at the food
- **Social Groupings** - Mixed gender and family interactivity where appropriate for non-solitary species, offers opportunities including grooming, bonding and playing
- **Behavioral Conditioning** - Training and handling when possible, usually as an aid to veterinary care (training animals to present body parts for blood draws, grooming and health checks reduces the need for anesthesia and the activity is stimulating)

Zoo staff and volunteers work hard to provide the animals with something novel each day. Making enrichment is not easy; it takes creativity to make safe items for the animals that don't have tape, staples, glue, or toxic chemicals. For example, wrapping paper is often applied to boxes using peanut butter or a gluey mixture of flour and water. There are now 833 individual items catalogued in our Approved Enrichment Library.

Curators and keepers are always coming up with clever new enrichment ideas, either using their own imaginations or through collaboration with colleagues at zoos around the world. The ideas then go through an approval process involving the Zoo Hospital before being added to the Library. Some keepers utilize a calendar system to plan out enrichment for the month but most keepers do enrichment as part of their daily routine.

If you are at a Keeper Talk, ask about the enrichments their animals enjoy and the keepers are sure to have many stories to tell you.

**African Savannah:** The three acres provides a large habitat for mixed species giving the animals options of where to go. The savannah can be broken up into the northern and southern side providing a means for animal management when animals need to be separated. Little additional enrichment is needed because the mixed species provides a type of enrichment for all the animals. Acacia browse is provided in various spots and heights for the giraffes. Giraffes come out through the shoot each day and their hooves are checked. A watering hole simulates the natural environment and allows the animals to get their daily water requirements. Several creep areas provide spots for the small yellow backed duiker, who is more shy and prefers the more dense covering. Sticks are provided for the marabou storks to encouraged nest building.

**One-horned & black rhinoceros:** space for locomotion, pool for cooling down and dust for protection from insects and cooling, balls for object manipulation and stimulation, and deadfall and rocks provided for rubbing horn against and scratching.

**Big cats:** Behavioral training enables a medical exam such as ultra sounds for pregnancy or minor procedures to be preformed without anesthesia. Exhibits have various levels and places to hide. Large plastic trash containers are provided for tactile stimulation and play. Balls encourage playing and pouncing. Scents, such as cinnamon, around the exhibit stimulate olfaction. Hiding food spices or other scents and food in logs stimulate the cats into searching their exhibit. Decorated boxes are stuffed with food to elicit natural behaviors of foraging. Cats are often rotated between exhibits providing the enrichment of new scents and areas to explore.

**Primates:** Climbing structures and vertical and horizontal space encourage exercise and exploration and locomotion in a natural way. Chimpanzees are provided magazines to stimulate eyes and provide hands the opportunity to manipulate objects, large plastic balls, and other objects can be stuffed with plant material or novel food items like cereal, sunflower seeds, hot sauce, and spices. Food is hidden and scattered for gorillas around the exhibit encouraging foraging. Balls and tubs provide for play and object manipulation. Apes “twig” into tree trunk borings to retrieve the treats placed there by keepers. Fennel is given to Patas monkey for sensory stimulation.



Patas monkey enjoying  
fennel grown in  
Conservation Corner

**Polar bears:** Providing ice gives the polar bears the ability to explore different temperatures and textures. Colorful balls are provided to encourage exploration and visual stimulation. Pools provide a natural environment and ability to cool down. Behavioral training enables staff to perform minor medical exams and procedures if needed.

**Grizzly Bears:** Add variety to diet with edible browse, fish, edible wild berries and meat. Provide foraging opportunities with live fish in pool, burying foods in substrate, or by putting food in boxes. Giving peanut butter and honey for different textures and smells. Use a variety of olfactory enrichment such as fennel. Behavioral training enables staff to perform minor medical exams and procedures if needed.

**Penguin Island:** These penguins live in colony as they would in wild. Exhibit simulates the burrows & open water they would find in their natural habitat. Chicks go to fish school where they learn to be hand-fed by keepers and even swim. The spray of water as the pool fills is a form of enrichment. It provides current in the water and changes up the environment.

**South American Aviary:** Birds are in free flight. Water provided for bathing. Various perching areas encourage exercise and exploration. A variety of species simulate their natural environment.

**African Aviary:** Birds are in free flight. Water provided for bathing. Various perching areas encourage exercise and exploration. A variety of species simulate their natural environment.

**Scarlet Macaw:** “Scarlett”, the scarlet macaw, has had a history of plucking feathers, a common behavior in pet parrots. An indoor play perch and renovated large outdoor enclosure for day use with multiple perches, feeding stations, and chewing options to emulate wild foraging were added. Training also began for medical behaviors, such as showing her wings and presenting feet for nail trims.



#### **Enrichment Scents:**

**Dry spices:** Lavender, nutmeg, cinnamon, oregano, allspice, basil, and dill. These spices are given to most mammals and some reptiles in ARC (armadillos, porcupine, kinkajou, chinchilla, hedgehog, rabbit, ferret, opossum, snakes)

**Fresh spices:** fresh rosemary, mint, sage, cat nip, cat grass, basil, cilantro, chocolate mint, pineapple mint, and spearmint are given to all mammals sometimes as part of the diet and sometimes as enrichment. Some are also used in primates and with big cats, especially rosemary.

**Oils or liquids:** vanilla

**Perfumes:** scented magazine inserts & liquid perfumes given to cats and possibly others  
Rosemary spray, lavender spray, fresh herb spray are given to bobcat.