**Enrichment Comparison of African Painted Dogs (**_Lycaon pictus_*) Housed in U.S. AZA-accredited Institutions**

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**Introduction**

- Enrichment offered to: encourage behavioral diversity, increase activity, reduce stereotypic behavior (Shyne 2006; Shyne & Block 2010; Morris et al. 2011; Quirke & O’Riordan 2011)
- Enrichment is an Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Accreditation Standard and varies in form and function (Watters et al. 2011; Mellen & MaPhee 2001)
- Few studies of wild canid enrichment – need more species-specific information (Vasconcellos et al. 2009)
- Goal of this study: compile a list of environmental, habitat, food, sensory, social and behavioral enrichment items and activities previously or currently in use among the institutions housing Painted Dogs, as well as to obtain best practices

**Methods**

- Data compiled via questionnaire distributed to African Painted Dog SSP network
- 61% response rate
- Topics addressed: identify and describe social groups and enclosures, frequency each of the 6 categories of enrichment offered, perceived success of each enrichment category, and overall best practices for enrichment
- Group composition: 67% mixed sex groups, 24% all male groups, 9% all female groups (Table 2)
- Enclosure size: 74% of mixed sex groups and 75% of single sex groups housed in enclosures of 15,000 sq. ft. or less (Table 3)
- Enclosure features varied, however, majority included naturalistic and concrete (i.e. walls, pools, and holding pens) features (Table 3)

**Results**

- Some form of enrichment given on a regular basis, with at least one type given multiple times a week (Figure 1)
- All respondents utilized, or at least attempted, a variety of enrichment types
- Food and behavioral enrichment had higher perceived success (Figure 2)
- Social and food enrichment were the most frequent forms of enrichment offered (Figure 1)
- Enclosure type and group size and composition (mixed sex and single-sex groups) varied among institutions, but did not appear to have any bearing on enrichment offered and/or the perceived success
- Duration of interactions varied among institutions and items
- More responses elicited when food hidden in items
- Recommendations for best practices:
  - Scatter/bury food
  - Carcasses to encourage groups to work together
  - Training natural and husbandry behaviors
  - Bones
  - Water features
  - Items that can be torn apart (paper bags, boxes, phonebooks)
  - Areas to dig
  - Offer multiple options to entire pack
  - Enrichment that encourages natural behaviors such as foraging and scent marking

**Conclusions**

1. Respondents provided examples of enrichment options for each of the 6 enrichment categories.
2. Most institutions offered enrichment multiple times per week.
3. Food and behavioral enrichment perceived as two most successful enrichment categories.
4. High variation in responses to enrichment by individuals, recommend being innovative, flexible, and to experiment with what works for painted dogs at each institution.

**Acknowledgments**

African Painted Dog SSP

Photos courtesy of (in alphabetical order): Denver Zoo, Endangered Wolf Center, Houston Zoo, Phoenix Zoo, Topeka Zoo

**References**

- AZA Large Carnivore Network 2011