# Enrichment Days A Fun and Educational Event

Holding "Enrichment Day" events for zoo and aquarium guests is a popular way to inform our communities about enrichment as a vital and necessary component for animals in captive settings. Many facilities have created such events, featuring keeper talks, interactive exhibits, informational booths and games.

Although organizing an Enrichment Day can require a great deal of organization and preparation, sharing best practices between different facilities can help everyone involved in the planning and implementation of these events.

Below, we have compiled Enrichment Day information from a number of animal facilities, with contact information in case you need further information.

If your facility has an Enrichment Day event, we would love to have your information posted here! Please contact <a href="Amy Burgess">Amy Burgess</a>

<u>Calgary Zoo</u> <u>ZooAtlanta</u>

Columbus Zoo Houston Zoo

Oakland Zoo Tulsa Zoo

<u>Utah's Hogle Zoo</u> <u>Naples Zoo</u>

2006 AAZK Conference Workshop Summary on Enrichment Days

## Calgary Zoo's Second Annual Enrichment Day

By Amelia MacRae Animal Enrichment Assistant Calgary Zoo, Alberta, Canada amacrae@telus.net

The Calgary Zoo recognizes that environmental enrichment is an important and necessary part of husbandry practices for our captive animals. Increasing sensory stimulation and providing challenges such as puzzle feeders, novel objects or scents within an enclosure provides animals with opportunities to display their natural abilities and fulfill their behavioral needs. Animal enrichment is done daily at the zoo, and we wanted to showcase not only the efforts of our keepers in providing animals with stimulating objects and activities, but also to further educate the public about the importance of enrichment. We decided to hold a special enrichment day event in which the day's activities focused on our animal enrichment program.

Our first Enrichment Day was held in November 2003. A planning team was created and included staff from animal care, horticulture, research, marketing and veterinary care departments. Since it was a first-time event, it was fairly small with minimal advertising, including an announcement in our member's newsletter and a short promotional spot on a local television station. Due to winter weather conditions, most of the activities were held inside. The following descriptions show the variety of activities, and the integrative nature of the day.

Calgary Zoo visitors helped make lunch boxes filled with favorite treats for specific animals. Our Savannah building animal keepers demonstrated training techniques by holding target-training sessions with giraffes. Calgary firefighters volunteered to rearrange donated fire hose used as furniture in the gorilla enclosure. The West Edmonton Mall kindly allowed their handlers to bring two of their penguins to our facility, offering the public an opportunity to meet these fascinating birds. Our keepers conducted 'meet an owl' sessions, enabling people to get up close and personal with our 'encounter' saw whet owl (Aegolius acadicus). A craft table was set up for people to make simple, inexpensive enrichment toys for their pets, such as cat toys made of toilet paper tubes with cat treats inside, and dog throw toys made from donated tennis balls and rope.

Our few outdoor activities consisted of carcass feedings for our big cats and wolves and a hammock-making demonstration, in which a keeper and volunteers made a large hemp rope bed for our snow leopards. Throughout the day, interpreters incorporated information about enrichment into their regular educational programs.

Based on the public's positive response and zoo staff enthusiasm, both during and after our first Enrichment Day, we decided to make it an annual event. Our second annual Enrichment Day was on 19 July 2004. Improvements over the first year included an increased budget for both print and radio advertising, as well as more activities encouraging visitor participation.

A popular event involved a giant treat-filled (candy) log similar to the tube feeders we make for our animals. Zoo guests rolled the giant tube around, with their efforts being "rewarded" by candy falling out of pre-drilled holes in the tube. 'While You Were Out' was an activity in which City Parks and Recreation horticulturists and volunteers completed an exhibit makeover, such as rearranging "exhibit furniture" or adding new items. As the volunteers were working within the exhibit, interpreters would explain why the exhibit was being renovated. The public then watched as the animals explored the changes and additions to their enclosure. 'Changing Rooms' had two teams of visitors go head-to-head and create a gorilla-stimulating environment with provided materials. The two rooms were then judged by our gorilla keepers based on a gorilla perspective. In the morning, Green Fools Theatre Company joined our program with a whooping crane puppet and biologist/puppeteer. They roamed the grounds explaining the precarious plight of the species. In the afternoon, the theatre company provided male and female stilt-walking whooping cranes. Visitors could 'Be a Scientist' at an interactive display in which they would input scientific data based on observations of "Mustache Man", one of our meerkats. A construction centre was set up to demonstrate how various enrichment items are made, and people were again encouraged to make toys for their pets at a craft station.

The biggest hit of the day was probably the pinata made for the tigers. A volunteer constructed a deer-sized pinata out of paper-maché and burlap, filled it with ungulate hair and manure, and hung it in the tiger enclosure. It was thrilling to watch the tigers work as a team to attack, and eventually drag away their prey.

The whole day was fun and a huge success, thanks to the efforts of our staff. Over 5,700 visitors enjoyed and participated in the numerous events. Many of our activities were designed to highlight the unique behaviors of our wide variety of species, and we received public feedback saying how exciting it was to see the animals engaged and active in their enclosures.

We believe our Enrichment Day acted as a vehicle to increase visitors' awareness about our zoo animals, as well as what they can do to have stimulated and happy pets at home. By promoting our enrichment activities in different areas of the zoo, we have fostered strong relationships among the separate zoo departments. We plan to continue the process of learning as we develop new and interesting activities for future Enrichment Days.



Tiger attacks "hanging prey" as part of the Calgary Zoo's Enrichment Day activities. (photo by Cindy Peacock)

# Come and Play the Animal Way! Zoo Atlanta's Second Annual Animal Enrichment Day

Come and Play the animal way! Experience a new sound, play a new game, feel a new sensation or smell a new smell at Zoo Atlanta's Second Annual Animal Enrichment Day, June 5 th, 2004. Zoo staff and volunteers would like to treat you and your family to a day of fun activities highlighting the exciting and stimulating things that they do for the zoo's animals on a regular basis.

#### What is Enrichment?

Enrichment is a term used to describe the various activities that keepers utilize to encourage natural behavior from the animals under their care. It allows the animals to demonstrate species typical behaviors and to exercise control or choice over their environment.

#### Why do we do Enrichment?

Animals that are exposed to changing and challenging environments, similar to their wild counter parts, are healthier, happier, and more active.

#### What type of enrichment is there?

A great enrichment program like the one here at Zoo Atlanta includes all five of an animal's senses: taste, touch, sound, sight, and smell. Keepers and volunteers work diligently to find ways to provide for each of these needs. Ways in which enrichment may be provided include varying substrates in an exhibit, introducing new novel scents, taped auditory sounds or vocalizations, toys, scattered or hidden food items, and one on one interactive training with keepers.

On Animal Enrichment Day, zoo visitors will learn more about some of Zoo Atlanta's enrichment programs. Visitors will also be able to create and take home enrichment items and ideas for back yard wildlife and pets! There will be special animal enrichment activities throughout the day such as training demonstrations, novel food feedings, toys, and various paper mache objects given to a variety of Zoo Atlanta's residents. Visitors will get an up close look at enrichment items before and after they have been given to animals as well as experience enrichment from the "animals point of view" as they take part in zoo wide activities. Make giant bubbles, touch something gooey, follow a unique smell, guess what's making that sound, activities for kids and adults alike. See active animals, talk to keepers, have fun and Come Play the animal way!

These are the public activity stations that will be going on from 9:30 am - 4pm. All activities are designed to mimic enrichment we do and give to the animals at the zoo.

#### Learn about enrichment at these stations:

 What is Enrichment? Display! Different items from hard hats to paper tubes will be displayed - both before they have been given to animals and then what are left when animals are done. Enrichment volunteers will also be on hand with examples of what they do and how they do it – pictures and examples abound! • Enrich your pets and back yard Wildlife! This table will have a peanut butter /pinecone/bird seed activity as well as many examples of how to do enrichment at home! Including designing a backyard habitat for animals and appropriate toys for your pets!

## Enrich your 5 senses at these stations:

- Tactile Sensation Station! Visitors have to reach into hide boxes and guess what they are touching. Also there will be other displays talking about the sense of touch. Touch something gooey, prickly, soft, strange!
- It Makes Scents! Guess the smell from sweet to sour and everything in between! Then guess which zoo animal likes that scent! Learn how different scents are used as enrichment for our animals!
- Sight and Sound Sensation station! Visitors will be asked to guess
  which animal made that sound in a game show fashion and to find
  camouflaged animals in unique pictures as well as to learn about how
  sight and sound are used in the daily lives of the zoo's animals.
- Tasty treats! Talk with zookeepers and animal food prep team who are responsible for all the food the animals eat and learn what fun can be had with food! See crawly mealworms, smell the grain the animals eat, find out your animals favorite food!!!

## Just for the Kid's:

- Giraffe Jacks This activity engages children to pretend their hand is a giraffe tongue and requires kids to forage for stickers thru a giraffe enrichment device.
- Forage and FeastThis activity uses kiddie pools full of shredded paper to find a piece of fake fruit in 10 seconds – if they do it they get their passport stamped!
- **Bubbles** Using bubble solution, a kiddie pool, and some large rings kids will be challenged to make giant bubbles this will be a very fun activity!
- **Stuffing Station** Kids will have an opportunity to stuff a tube like we do for the primates but instead take it home to their pets!

Other activities include a variety of keeper talks, storytellers, Animal shows and training demonstrations, and costumed characters roaming the zoo!

# These are some of the Animal Enrichment activities that visitors will be invited to see:

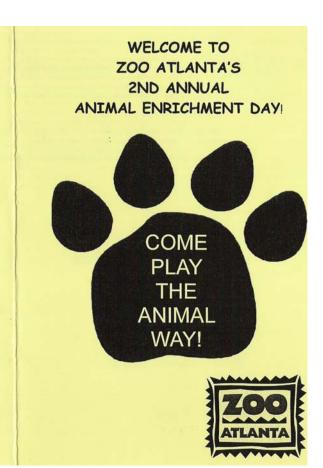
- Giant pandas with puzzle feeders and scented hay piles.
- Rhinos plowing through dirt piles, playing with paper mache, and eating an enormous pile of tree braches.
- Ground Hornbills chasing after a remote control car!
- Otters chasing and playing with new toys!
- Lions will hunt and capture paper mache animals!

- Elephants will get extra large ice blocks filled with fruit!
- Gorillas will get banana roll-ups, fruit icicles, and many more fun things!

## June 5th, 2004. Activities will be on going from 9:30am-4pm!

For more information please contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@zooatlanta.org">info@zooatlanta.org</a>

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irea⇒ TimeU	Masai Mara	Mzima Springs	Ford Rain Forest	Ketambe	Reptiles	Asian Forest	Orkin Children's Zoo
9:30	Rhino	Elephant	Country				
10:00	Bongo		Drills			Otters	
10:30	Lions			-	Komodo	Carpus -	Goats
11:00		Hornbills Elephants					
11:30	Giraffe		Elder's Tree			Giant Panda Otters	Weiland Golden Lion Tamarins
12:00	Giraffe		Drills		Giant Salamander		The second second
1:00		Elephants				Otters	Weiland
1:30	Lion					200-	Weiland
2:00	Giraffe		Gorillas Yard #3			Giant Pandas	
2:15		£.	Gorillas Yard #4				
2:30		Elephants	Gorillas Yard #1	Orangutans Yard #1			Aldabra Tortoises Kangaroos
2:45				Orangutans Yards # 2&3			
3:00	Rhino		Gorillas Yard #2			Tigers	Lemurs
3:15	and the same of						Lemurs
3:30		Elephants	-		-		Pigs
4:00	Kori Bustards					Giant Panda	Tamandua
4:30							Aldabra Tortoises
5:00		Elephants	Gorillas Yard # 3			Otters	
5:30						Giant Pandas	Weiland



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## PASSPORT TO "COME PLAY THE ANIMAL WAY!"

ZOO PASSPOR	TTO	5
"COME PLAY THE A	NIMAL WAY!"	5
Get a stamp after you finish each Enrichment St be named Junior Zoo Keeper! Then enter you drawing for a free animal encount	tation. Collect all ten and ur completed card in a er for four!	ZI LITOOULISCI
Tactile Sensation Station	It Makes "Scents"	
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What is Enrichment?	Giraffe Jacks	20 110111
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## Columbus Zoo Enrichment Day Activities

We hold our Enrichment Day from 10-4pm the last Saturday in June each year. The enrichment committee chairs are primarily responsible for the event, although each department that has an activity station participates. I have a preplanning list that I use each year to make sure I don't forget anything!

- Activity stations set up throughout the zoo:
- 1. Enrichment for backyard birds and stinky sticks- birdseed pinecones, lots of backyard bird info., nest samples with photos of birds, stinky sticks (visitors dip sticks in diluted extracts and we give them to the animals)
- 2. Nature bookmarks- visitors can make bookmarks out of construction paper cut to size, put cut flowers and leaves on it and cover with clear packing tape to seal it. Also on this table are samples of toxic plants as well as samples of herbs, edible flowers and browse that we feed the animals.
- 3. Table set up at "Habitat Hollow" to make birdfeeders, recipes for backyard friends to take home
- 4. Searching for Snacks- Big cardboard box with wood wool and candy in it for searching, photo display boards with enrichment pictures
- 5. Gorilla Games- gorilla treat stand for visitors to try (sticks provided), samples of gorilla hand and feet print on paper to color and trace your hand over to compare the size, samples of enrichment items given to gorillas
- 6. Enrichment for your pets at home- stinky socks to make for your cat, other ideas on take home hand outs, enrichment photos of zoo staff's pets
- 7. Enrichment Games- Animal Nutrition department sets up table with photos of enrichment that they provide for the animals, including guessing game about enrichment items for the animals and a sticker tree.
- 8. Do What the Animals Do- large metal tub with candy and shredded paper to "dig" through while we explain how this compares to enrichment given to the animals, many examples of enrichment items displayed as well as skulls of different animals
- 9. Manatee Mania- video of manatee enrichment and samples of enrichment items out with someone explaining how they are used
- 10. Discovering the Shores- Penguin toss game (toss fake fish into the mouth of a cardboard cut-out penguin), mealworms, crickets, minnows out for display

The event couldn't be pulled off without our wonderful docents! We use 40 docents and adult volunteers and about 10 zoo aides for the event. The zoo provides them with pop and water at each location, I provide a small snack bag and we give each volunteer a 4x6 enrichment photo of an animal to thank them for helping out. Our docent in charge of enrichment and I make rounds throughout the zoo checking on the volunteers all day. The event has become so popular that I had extra docents sign up last year and more asking if they could help on the day of the event!

The zoo's costumed characters stroll around during the day. Activities take place between 10 and 4. All departments have scheduled enrichment times for visitors throughout the zoo. Our education department does training sessions with the macaws and/or birds of prey for the visitors to watch.

We used to do a front gate handout with activities listed, but conservation wise it wasn't the best idea. We have signs all over the zoo with arrows pointing to activities and schedules of events posted on all exhibit windows, gift shop, food stands, etc. We plaster our logo everywhere to hopefully get visitors to start recognizing it. We have 2 banners that say: "Enrichment event today- Animals in Action!" One is at the front gate and one is inside the zoo.







Enrichment Day Success - Beyond Our Expectations!

Carolyn Mathews-Borak Carnivore Keeper Houston Zoo Inc.

The organization of an Enrichment Day event can be beneficial for zoo guests, employees and animals. The Houston Zoo's annual Go Wild Enrichment Day is one such event. In addition to educating guests about the zoo's enrichment program, staff interest and participation in the program has increased zoo-wide.

In the spring of 2003 the zoo held an event called Go Wild weekend, which was expanded in 2004 when an educational segment was added to create Go Wild Enrichment Day. The goal of this event was to educate guests regarding the importance of enrichment by introducing them to the enrichment program at the Houston Zoo. The Houston Zoo held its first annual enrichment day on Saturday April 3, 2004. This event was organized by the animal sections and development department. The development department arranged the advertisings as well as much of the event planning. Chick-fil-A generously sponsored the event. They helped to advertise by distributing coupons for entry to the zoo that day. The Public Affairs Director provided information to the media about our event. During our event not only animal sections participated but also other departments, such as Horticulture, Commissary, Development, Education, Green Practices and Ranger (security) staff.

The events department, the animal sections and a few other departments planned out plenty of activities for the day. The guests were given special maps indicating the location and times of all the events. There were about 40 enrichment demonstrations done at the animal exhibits with keepers and volunteers on hand to interpret. The Zoo Staff came up with an acronym to use on all of the graphics, ENRICH (Encouraging Natural Responses In Captive Habitats). This acronym was a uniform message that could be used to explain the theme of the event to the zoo's guests. It was decided to use a slogan that clearly explained enrichment.

As the guests entered the zoo they encountered booths that discussed why zoos enrich the animals, what enrichment is, and how they are enriched. The Green Practices committees set up a booth to show how many of the zoo's enrichment items come from recycled sources. The Horticulture Department brought up an abundance of fresh browse to show the guests. The Commissary staff set out examples of food enrichment and talked to the guest about their involvement in the enrichment program. A poster addressing the safety aspect of enrichment was also placed among these booths. A power point presentation was designed by two of the zookeepers to show to the guests. It illustrated what enrichment is and was replayed several times throughout the day. Another booth was set up to talk about the animal training program at the zoo. At this booth a video was played that highlighted some of the zoo's training programs. There were also training paraphernalia set out for the guest to see and the training game was played with the children.

The education department also played a big role in the day's events. Some of their classes constructed enrichment items to be used on enrichment day. One of the items they constructed was a paper mache animal for the Komodo Dragon to tear up. This demonstration drew a large crowd that was then educated on the natural behaviors seen in the Komodo Dragons during enrichment activities.

Several games were planned to get the guest more involved. The staff tried to provide games and activities that offered guests a personal experience relating directly to the activities and behaviors of the animals. For example one game encouraged the natural behavior of foraging. A plastic kiddie pool was filled with shredded paper and plastic fruits and vegetables. Then the guest could "forage" just like the zoo primates. There was also a table with puzzles for the guests to manipulate. This was then compared to some of the puzzle feeders and more complex enrichment given to the animals. Another game called "enrichment stinks" was set up. In this game there were several jars with scented cotton balls inside. The cotton balls had been scented with various odors, such as garlic, vanilla extract, perfume, etc. As the guest guessed which scent was in the jar volunteers talked about using scent enrichment with the zoo felines and the keepers did a scheduled demonstration at the Margay exhibit. In a different game plastic bugs were tossed to children for them to catch. This was then compared to the Hornbills ability to catch bugs during flight. Other enrichment for the zoo guests included a magician, a juggler, musical performances and a giant inflatable slide out on the lawn.

A local pet store owner was invited to participate in Enrichment Day. He provided preapproved and pre-selected enrichment items for the guests to purchase for the animals at the zoo. It was arranged so guests could tell us what animal they wanted to buy for and then they where shown an assortment of items. They chose an item to buy and, after purchase, the item was immediately placed in a bin labeled with the appropriate animal section. The guests appeared eager to buy for their favorite animals. It was discovered that when a keeper could help interpret how the enrichment items were to be used the success of the booth increased.

Other non profit organizations were invited. Moody Gardens from Galveston, Texas designed a booth focusing on the enrichment program in their rainforest and aquarium exhibits. They also set up a fun activity for children that enabled them to make a painting just like the seals do with a special brush held in their mouth. (The brushes were sanitized between each artist.) Another organization that attended the event was the Houston SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). They brought some toys for domestic animals and talked about the ways to enrich your pets at home. There were also representatives on hand from other wildlife organizations such as Texas Parks and Wildlife. They had a variety of hand outs with information explaining how to enrich your yard to attract native wildlife.

There are several species of animals around the Houston Zoo that paint. Several paintings were completed and sold at a booth with the help of our local AAZK chapter. All of the funds collected at this booth were later distributed for the purchase of enrichment items.

After the event the GHCAAZK (Greater Houston Chapter) accepted proposals and then awarded the money to the animal sections for purchase of the new enrichment items.

After the enrichment day event there was revived interest in restarting Enrichment Group meetings. Previously only animal section staff routinely attended but now representatives from other departments like education, horticulture, and ranger staff routinely attend. There is an increase in interdepartmental cooperation with more departments now providing their expertise to help develop new enrichment ideas as well as to help design exhibit renovations. Enrichment Day was intitally designed to benefit and educate our zoo guests, however the zoo staff have also seen benefits through the rewards of their own professional development. An enrichment day brings staff together for a common goal, inspiring all who participate to do the most for the animals under their care. Due to the success of this event the Houston Zoo plans to continue Go Wild Enrichment Day annually.

# Enrichment Day The Houston Zoo

For further information, please contact: Carolyn Mathews-Borak: <a href="mailto:cmathewsborak@houstonzoo.org">cmathewsborak@houstonzoo.org</a>

The Houston Zoo held its first annual enrichment day on Saturday April 3, 2004. This event was organized by the animal sections and the development department. In the spring of 2003 the zoo held an event called Go Wild weekend. It was expanded in 2004 with an added educational segment to create Go Wild Enrichment Day. The goal for Enrichment Day was to educate our guests regarding the importance of enrichment by introducing them to the enrichment program at the Houston Zoo. The development department arranged the advertisings as well as much of the event planning. Chick-fil-A generously sponsored the event. They helped to advertise by distributing coupons for entry to the zoo that day. Our Public Affairs Director provided information to the media about our event.

The events department along side with the animal sections as well as a few other departments planned out plenty of activities for the day. The guests were given special maps indicating the location and times of all the events. There were enrichment demonstrations at several of the animal exhibits with keepers and volunteers on hand to interpret. We also came up with an acronym to use on all of our graphics, ENRICH (Encouraging Natural Responses In Captive Habitats). This acronym was a uniform message that could be used to explain the theme of the event to the zoo's guests. We wanted to use a slogan that defined enrichment easily.

As the guests entered the zoo they encountered booths that discussed why we enrich the animals, what enrichment is, and how we enrich them. Our Green Practices committee set up a booth to show how many of the zoo's enrichment items comes from recycled sources. The Horticulture Department brought up an abundance of fresh browse to show the guests. The Commissary staff set out examples of food enrichment and talked to the guest about their involvement in the enrichment program. A poster addressing the safety aspect of enrichment was also placed among these booths. A power point presentation was designed by two of the zookeepers to show to the guests. It illustrated what enrichment is and was replayed several times throughout the day. Another booth was set up to talk about the animal training program at the zoo. We showed video, set out training paraphernalia and played the training game with the children.

The education department also played a big role in the day's events. Some of their classes constructed enrichment items to be used on enrichment day. One of the items they constructed was a paper mache animal for the Komodo Dragon to tear up. That was a big hit with the guests.

Several games were planned to get the guest more involved. We tried to provide games and activities that offered guests a personal experience which related directly to the activities and behaviors of the animals. For example one game encouraged the natural behavior of foraging. A plastic kiddie pool was filled with shredded paper and toys. Then the guest could "forage" or search for a prize. There was also a table with puzzles for the guests to manipulate. This was then compared to some of the puzzle feeders and more complex enrichment given to the animals. Another game was a mimicking game. Children were given a sheet to hide under and look out like our Orangutans do. In a different game plastic bugs were tossed to children for them to catch. This was then compared to the Hornbills ability to catch bugs during flight. We designed one more activity for the public to compare enriched habitats to non-enriched habitats. Two tables were set up side by side. The first table was uncovered and had nothing sitting on it. The second table had a tablecloth, a bright colored poster and some fun people enrichment items. After the guests were drawn over to the "enriched" table we were able to show that an enriched environment is preferred to a non-enriched environment. Other enrichment for the zoo guests included a magician, a juggler and a giant inflatable slide out on the lawn.

A local pet store owner was invited to participate in Enrichment Day. He provided pre-approved and pre-selected enrichment items for the guest to purchase for the animals at the zoo. It was arranged so guests could tell us what animal they wanted to buy for and then they where shown an assortment of items. Then they chose which item to buy. After, the purchased item was immediately placed in a bin labeled with the animal section they bought for. The guests appeared eager to help. We discovered that when a keeper could help interpret how the enrichment items were to be used the success of the booth increased.

Two other non-profit organizations were invited. Moody Gardens from Galveston designed a booth focusing on the enrichment program in their rainforest and aquarium exhibits. They also set up a fun activity for children. The children were able to make a painting just like the seals do, with a special brush held in their mouth (The brushes were sanitized between each artist). The second organization that attended the event was the Houston SPCA. They brought toys for domestic animals and talked about the ways to enrich your pets at home.

There are several species of animals around the Houston Zoo that paint. Several paintings were completed and sold at a booth with the help of our local AAZK chapter. All of the monies collected at this booth were later distributed for the purchase of enrichment items. After the event the GHCAAZK (Greater Houston Chapter) accepted proposals from the animal sections, and then awarded the money. We also raffled off the chance for a guest and up to three other people to come and watch a special training session with one of the raccoons in the Children's Zoo. During this session the raccoon created a painting for the guest to take home.

Overall it was a very successful event. The Houston Zoo plans to continue Go Wild Enrichment Day annually. Enrichment Day not only reached out to our guests but also brought together departments from throughout the zoo.

The following was our schedule of events for Go Wild Enrichment Day on Sat. April 3, 2004.

- 9:30 Sea lions (non-food enrichment)
- 9:30 Red Capped Mangabeys WWP (Wortham World of Primates)
- o 10:00 Black Leopards
- o 10:00 Colobus /Mangabey exhibits
- o 10:00 Warthog
- o 10:15 Spectacled Bears Ice Pops
- 10:15 Koalas (scents or exhibit swapping)
- o 10:30 Bat Feeding in CZ (Children Zoo)
- 10:30 Sea Lions (puzzle/PVC feeder)
- 10:45 Raccoon training/painting CZ
- o 10:45 Power Point Presentation/ Discovery Center
- 11:00 Farm Parade in CZ
- 11:00 Red Crowned Cranes (feed bugs in a pile of leaves)
- o 11:00 Mandrills WWP
- o 11:00 Eland (Browse)
- o 11:00- 2:00 Juggler on West Lawn
- o 11:15 Sea Lion painting/presentation
- 11:15 Magic Show/ Butterfly Pavilion CZ
- 11:30 Servals
- 11:30 Otters CZ
- 11:30 Siamang WWP
- o 11:30 Rhinos
- o 11:30- 1:30 games
- o 11:45 Power Point Presentation/ Discovery Center
- 12:45 Power Point Presentation/ Discovery Center
- o 1:00 Komodo Dragon
- 1:00 Magic Show/ Butterfly Pavilion CZ
- o 1:15 Koala
- 1:15 Indo-Chinese Tigers
- 1:30 Training Presentation at Butterfly Pavilion CZ
- o 1:30 Elephants
- 1:30 Sea Lions (non-food enrichment)
- 1:30 Okapi (Browse)
- o 1:45 Raccoon painting CZ
- 1:45 Power Point Presentation/ Discovery Center
- o 2:00 Cougars
- o 2:00 Rhinos
- 2:00 Crowned Hornbills/ Bird Gardens (Bug Toss)

- 2:00 Warthog training2:30 Pelican feeding CZ2:30 Ravens/ Bird Gardens
- o 2:30 Patas WWP
- o 2:30 Giraffes
- o 2:45 Argus Pheasant (corn on a rope)

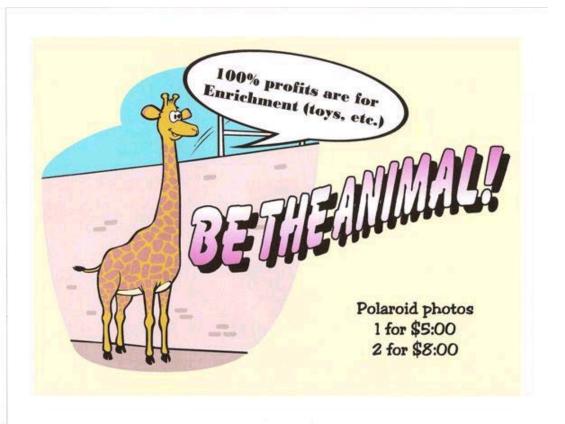
# Enrichment Day Oakland Zoo

Enrichment day at the Oakland Zoo began in 2001. It was a day of keeper inspired activities supported by the Animal Fund Boutique that were developed to raise awareness and funds for the Enrichment activities of the Animal Management Department. Besides the sales of craft items by the AFB the other fund raising were selling of Polaroid photos of children putting their faces in animal cutouts and photos of Be a Keeper where the children were allowed to put on hats, boots and other keeper wear and pose with a fake zebra. Face painting was provided free with voluntary donations accepted. Keeper talks surrounding enrichment activities were also scheduled throughout the day. At present, the Keeper talks, AFB, face painting (now handled by volunteers) are still used as are docent stations throughout the zoo with appropriate enrichment items located at these interpreter stations.

The photos of dressing like a keeper and animal cutouts were discontinued due to the labor intensive elements of staffing this station all day. This is a free event with paid admission to the zoo. The zoo's marketing department has acquired sponsors for the event which help with some of the costs (face paints, kid activity supplies). This year (2005) it has been suggested that our local chapter of the AAZK help put on and sponsor this day. It is hoped that by sponsoring this day more fundraising activities could be incorporated and perhaps even group workshops having the guests assist in large project construction.

Enrichment coordinator for the Oakland Zoo is (510) 632-9525 x169







# Enrichment Day Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum

Enrichment day began at the Tulsa Zoo in 2001. The idea was brought back from a conference earlier that year. The enrichment committee decided it was something we could do that would get our guests involved in our enrichment program. Each year the event gets easier to host, more enjoyable to our guests and is quickly becoming a marketable event for our facility.

Our committee is made up of at least one member from each animal department and a member of our docent program. This generally results in eight to ten members which are then assigned to sub-committees. These areas are:

- Liaison to our Public Relations Department and Management
- Secretary and roving sub-committee member
- Poster / Map insert / Master list
- Education/Volunteer Liaison
- Material / food supplies
- Large Mammal Department organizers

The public relations committee determines the needs from our pr department and provides interviews, articles, and live shots as needed. We have an in-house marketing department that assists us with setting up the media coverage. As the popularity of the event grows, so does amount of media attention. In 2004 our press coverage included: 10 television spots, four radio spots, four new articles as well as numerous ads, almost double the coverage from the previous year. This committee also holds staff development meetings to get support/participation from other keepers and management.

Due to our arrangement with Wendy's Restaurants and a local news channel our enrichment program is highlighted every Friday for a month in the summer, usually July. As part of those media spots, Enrichment Day is mentioned and this helps to build awareness of the program. The same local news channel also does a zoo spot every Wednesday morning and Enrichment Day is a focus closer to the event date.

The secretary is responsible for taking meeting minutes and distribution of them to all departments as well as upper management. This position will also float to other committees as needed.

For the poster a photo is taken of the selected species during an enrichment session. This photo is then given to the zoo's pr department for formatting into the poster. We then print (provided by the City of Tulsa, the zoo owners) approximately 100 to 150 posters which are then distributed by committee members to various locations: all area library branches, Wendy's Restaurant locations (sponsor), as well as any other interested businesses.

The master list is comprised of the day's events as provided by the zookeepers performing the enrichment. It gives zoo staff the time, event, species, and keeper responsible. This information is used to formulate a map insert which is a brief list of all activities and given to the public the day of the

event. This allows for the guest to decide what they want to see and where they need to be. On the back is a passport where guest can get a stamp at each table/activity they visit and participate in. This has been extremely popular with the younger guests.

The volunteer coordinator helps recruit docents as well as other interested parties to help out. This can be in various areas including interactive stations, building of enrichment devices, assisting keepers the day of the event, and interpreting enrichment activities as they are occurring when keepers can not be present. Our interactive stations include ideas for enrichment of pets, explanation of enrichment being provided, games for guest to play that simulate the animal's techniques and projects that can be taken home with guests.

A material list is taken from supply sheets that are provided by keepers to the committee for items to be purchased and delivered before the event. This covers all forms of supplies including hardware, food, non-food items as well as new toys. All items are subject to the standard approval process. Once approved these items are purchased with funds provided by our enrichment committee. Wendy's restaurants are a major sponsor for our enrichment program providing all of our operating funds. The committee budgets anywhere from \$1000 to \$1500 for E-Day annually.

With the Large Mammal Department being so large and diverse (three separate departments) we had two coordinators to assist with supplies and actual activities during the day of the event.

Other participants have included area pet supply stores that have set up an information table and examples of toys for guest's pets. We have discussed the possibility of trying to turn this into an exhibitor's hall and charge vendors. This idea is not currently feasible.

Currently this event is one day annually. It has been proposed that we change it to a two-day event or repeat it two or three times throughout the year. Another suggestion is to combine this event with another seasonal event. These ideas have had various issues that need to be dealt with first. Currently it is preferred to keep it as its own event.

When guest leave they are asked to fill out a questionnaire they received upon entering the zoo (part of insert). When it is turned in they are give a coupon for a free small Frosty at our local Wendy's. This encourages active participation from our guests and lets us know how we are doing.

Each year the event grows and gets more popular with zoo guests, zoo management, as well as other keepers. Admission numbers combined with the exit surveys show that Enrichment Days are a valuable concept for all involved.

## **Passport Stamps**

You'll receive animal stamps at various locations on zoo grounds.

Use this section below for stamping.

# Welcome to Enrichment Day

September 4, 2004 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



# **Enrichment Day Schedule of Activities**\*

## What is Enrichment Day?

Today's activities highlight exercises that zookeepers perform with the animals to stimulate natural behavior. These activities challenge the animals and keep them physically and mentally active, thus enriching their lives. Enrichment activities are performed throughout the year to help maintain our animals' health and well being.

This program includes an entensive list of scheduled activities. Please note, there are additional enrichment activities occuring throughout the zoo that do not appear on the schedule.

**Special Thanks:** Wendy's Restaurants for their ongoing support of the enrichment program, Tulsa Zoo staff and zookeepers, Tulsa Zoo Friends staff, Docents and WildBunch volunteers.

Time	Animal	Location	Activity
9:15 AM	Elephants	Elephant-viewing window	Bath time with Gunda
	Polar Bear	Arctic Tundra	Puzzle feeder with fish
9:30 AM	Wolf	Arctic Tundra	Boomer ball meat feeder
	Marabou Stork	African Savanna	Live fish
	African Crowned Cranes	African Savanna	Scattered crickets and bugs
	Goose	African Savanna	Scattered crickets and bugs
9:45 AM	Chimps	Chimp Connection-inside	Foraging with boxes and tubes
10:00 AM	Black Bears	Eastern Forest	Barrel feeder
	Elephants	Elephant-cow yard	Bubble pool
	Howler Monkeys	Rain Forest (TARF)	Browsing and foraging
10:30 AM	Jaguars	TARF	Puzzle feeder with log ladder
	Otters	Childrens' Zoo	Live fish
10:45 AM	Kudu	African Savanna	Browse feeder
11:00 AM	Lemurs	Bear/Lemur Grotto	Mesh boxes with fruit and paper boxes
	Brown Bears	Bear/Lemur Grotto	Exotic boomer toy
	Snow Leopards	Snow Leopard exhibit	Pulley system
	Chimps	Chimp Connection-island	Puzzle balls
	Rhinos	Rhino Yard	Rhino clubhouse with scents
	Plush Crested Jays	Concervation Center	Cricket feeders
11:15 AM	Spectacled Bears	Bear/Lemur Grotto	Tug toy with bones
	Lions	Big Cats	Tug toy with bones, or carcass
11:30 AM	Sea lions	Sea lion exhibit	Feeder fish
	Marmosets	TARF	Cricket feeders
12:00 PM	Tigers	Big Cats	Paper mache
	Baby Tortoises	Conservation Center	Hanging fruit
12:30 PM	Chimps	Chimp Connection	Foraging-paper packets/jello cane sticks
	Kangaroos	Childrens' Zoo	Foraging in paper sacks
1:00 PM	Giraffes	African Savanna	Trees
	Penguins	Penguin exhibit	Feeding
	Sharks	Southern Lowlands	Feeding-crab meat and lobsters

#### **Continued**

1:00 PM	Polar Bear	Arctic Tundra	Tire shaped boomer
	Elephants	Elephants-bull yard	Sneezy melon stomp
	Holwer Monkeys	TARF	Feeding
	White Pelican	Siamang Pond	Live fish
	Chameleon	Conservation Center	Cricket feeder
1:15 PM	Grand Caymon Iguana	Conservation Center	Hanging fruit
1:45 PM	Wading Birds	Southern Lowlands	Live fish
	Brown Pelicans	Southern Lowlands	Live fish
2:00 PM	Cheetahs	Cheetahs exhibit	Carcass feeding
	Tamarins	TARF-island	Cricket feeder
2:30 PM	Primates	Conservation Center	Puzzle feeders and foraging
	Macaws	TARF	Parrot browse
3:00 PM	Spectacled Bears	Bear/Lemur Grotto	Stuffed large paper rolls
	Snow Leopards	Snow Leopard exhibit	Pulley system
	Howler Monkeys	TARF	Crickets
	Aldabra Tortoise	Aldabra Tortoise exhibit	Food skewered on bamboo
3:15 PM	Brown Bears	Bear/Lemur Grotto	Exotic boomer toy
4:00PM	Penguins	Penguin exhibit	Feeding

# Zookeeper Q & A

11:30 AM	Aldabra Tortoises	Aldabra Tortoise exhibit
1:15 PM	Elephants	Elephant-cow yard
1:30 PM	Tamarins	TARF- island
2:00 PM	Primates	Conservation Center
2:00 PM	Rhinos	Rhino Yard
2:30 PM	Chimps	Chimpanzee Connection
2:30 PM	Sea lions	Sea lion exhibit (demonstration)

# **Information Stations**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

General Infromation	Entrance Gate	
Polar Bears	Arctic Tundra	Biofacts, puzzle feeder
Aldabra Tortoises	Aldabra Tortoise exhibit	Biofacts, kids activities
Chimps	Chimpanzee Connection	Biofacts, boomer interactive
Giraffe	African Savanna	Giraffe heart activity
Lions	Big Cats	Biofacts and tug toy
Kangaroos/ Otters	Childrens' Zoo	Biofacts
Birds	Conservation Center	Biofacts, flamingo fun

<sup>\*</sup> All times subject to change due to changes in the animal's schedules.



# Enrichment Day Utah's Hogle Zoo

Utah's Hogle Zoo hosts an annual (now in our 7th year!) day-long event dedicated to increasing awareness about what animal enrichment is and what we do to enhance the lives of our animals. This event is typically scheduled in the fall from 10am-2pm on a selected Saturday. With the help of an "Enrichment Day Planning Committee", there are a number of activities including: behavioral enrichment themed Meet-A-Keepers all day (every 1/2 hour) throughout the Zoo, where keepers present enrichment to the animals or conduct training sessions and discuss enrichment with our guests. We also, with the help of zoo volunteers, set up "Exploration Stations" which highlight the 5 categories of enrichment (sensory, foods/feeding, manipulative/toys, environmental and behavioral/social) with interactive, hands-on activities such as puzzle feeders, i.d. the mystery scent, paint like an elephant, etc. We also do a pet enrichment table, do an enrichment-themed scavenger hunt with prizes and invite other community animal organizations to this exciting and rewarding event.

Included are some sample minutes from a Planning Committee Meeting to help you plan your own Enrichment Day extravaganza!

For more information, contact Dawn Neptune, Behavioral Programs Coordinator for Utah's Hogle Zoo at <a href="mailto:2enrichntrain@hoglezoo.org">2enrichntrain@hoglezoo.org</a>.



TO: Enrichment Day Planning Committee (Lindsay, Katie, Kalyn, Celeste,

Ellen and Nate) FROM: Dawn

**DATE: August 16, 2007** 

**RE: Meeting Notes & Next Meeting** 

Event scheduled for Saturday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-2pm on the grassy lawn in front of the Great Apes Bldg. Please check the schedule to confirm that you are here on this day.

- Goal of day- to increase visitor awareness of UHZ Enrichment program & benefit to animals
- Event day Sat Sept 22 10a-2p (set up 9a/tear down 3p)
- Meet-a-keepers every 30min (can have 2 locations/time slot) Specify building location
- 6 Enrichment exploration stations
- Scavenger hunt/Enrichment safari

#### 1) Schedule/Printed Materials

#### Will Need to submit to Graphics by Aug 23:

- Banner (already have in Storage)
- Enrichment presentation here at \_\_\_\_\_ for all locations/times (8 ½ x 11)
- Accompanying Meet-A-Keeper schedule for each location (8 ½ x 11)
- (6) Enrichment exploration station signs for each table
  - Sensory
  - Foods/Feeding
  - Manipulative/toys
  - Environmental
  - Behavioral/social
  - Pet enrichment
- (2) large "a" frame schedules for entry plaza and stations area
- encourage everyone to include strong enrichment message in MAK's
- If anyone else needs additional signage for their station please let Kalyn know by Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>!!

#### **Exploration stations**

- Sensory: Katie
  - Lots of samples, ID the mystery scent & Mystery item tactile/touch box (in storage) and/or ??
- Foods/feeding: Lindsay
  - Lots of samples, Human puzzle feeder games (mesh feeders in storage)
- Manipulative: Kalyn
  - Lots of samples, Paint like an elephant, chalk drawing, hula hoops and/or
- Environmental: Nate

- Sample substrates (in storage), Maze, enriched environment vs. non and/or sample devices or ???
- Behavioral: Ellen
  - Sample decoys, etc., docent walk-n-talks, Highlight training (video)
- Pet Enrichment: Celeste
- Have info sheets already, homemade doggie biscuits and/or ???
- Volunteers/pinatas: Dawn
- Marketing: Dawn
- Check about location on grassy lawn for power sources, table arrangement & traffic flow issues

#### **POINT PEOPLE:**

<u>GRAPHICS-</u> Kalyn & Celeste (will post the keeper MAK sign up sheet in commissary)

#### **EXPLORATION STATIONS:**

Sensory- Katie Foods/Feeding- Lindsay Manipulative- Kalyn Environmental- Nate Behavioral/Social- Ellen Pets- Celeste

### SCAVENGER HUNT

This "Enrichment Safari" will be a group project which will be coordinated by the Kalyn & Celeste. Let's work with Song in Events & potentially Education, as they have done scavenger hunts in the past. Song also has additional little prizes (temporary tattoos, etc.) that we can give away in addition to the 8 great gift basket grand prizes.

\* Everyone bring at least 2 sample hunt question ideas to the next meeting! \*

#### Next meeting:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm Auditorium

Everyone please come prepared to discuss what you plan for your table, bring your 2 scavenger hunt questions, any graphics requests and Dawn will bring those things that are in storage that have been used in the past to possibly save some legwork. GET GREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!

## Naples Zoo Halloween Event

The Enrichment Committee has been approved to begin preparations for a second Halloween Event. Another day event during business hours has been settled on.

Saturday, 30 October 2004—all day long!

As with last year, there will be no additional admission cost for visitors already attending the zoo, but we are hoping to have increased attendance from advertising the event.

All staff already working that day will be expected to participate. Enrichment Committee members can come in (if they have the day off) and partake in any events they would like.

Here are the events we are planning on throughout the day:

GOODIE BAGS—The Enrichment Committee will be selling Goodie Bags to families for their children to collect candy in. We have paper Halloween themed bags. Buying the bag (for \$2.00) will entitle the children to an additional small prize at each candy station throughout the zoo. The proceeds from these bags will go to benefit enrichment. If a family brings in a pumpkin (to be used during the day for enrichment) they will get 2 free bags.

CANDY STATIONS—There will be trick-or-treat stations for the kids to collect candy at. Upon buying admission to the zoo each child will receive a string of tickets (the same number as there are candy stations in the park). They will redeem these tickets at stations for candy (this prevents all children going several times to the same candy station). Also at the candy stations will be small prizes (different prize at each station) for the kids with Goodie Bags. The Candy Stations will be as follows:

AM Alligator Feeding
AM Planet Predator Show
Meet the Keeper—Kangaroos
Serpents Fangs and Fiction Show
Meet the Keeper—African Lions
PM Planet Predator Show
Meet the Keeper—Indochinese Tigers
SUBWAY
Gift Shop
Boat Dock

COSTUME CONTEST—At 1:00pm a contest of all costumes will be judged (probably by keepers on their lunch breaks and volunteers). Prizes will be given for the best costumes.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER—This encounter will take place at the sulfur spring, where the baby alligator petting used to happen. The encounter will be themed toward more "creepy crawly" animals (more snakes, reptiles) along with a few they can touch (mammals).

PUMPKIN ENRICHMENT—Throughout the day pumpkins will be given to as many animals as possible for enrichment. These items will be placed by regular keepers at regular times enrichment is normally given. We will be looking for larger pumpkins for hoofstock and cats and small pumpkins or gourds for the lemurs and other primates.

Of course other suggestions/ideas for activities would be welcomed. We are not going to ask the staff that day to do any extra activities other than those already in their schedules (unless the want to!). If you want to come in and help out or build another activity into your own day that day, that would be fine.

In the mean time we will need help with the following:

Finding Goodie Bags

Drawing up advertisements for in-house advertising (e.g. posters, half sheet

flyers for maps, etc)

Finding prizes for Goodie Bags (preferably donated)

Finding larger prizes for the Costume Contest

Planning Animal Encounter

**Preparing Tickets** 

Decorations for the candy stations at the gift shop, subway and boat dock

We are looking for ANY staff to volunteer to do ANY of these things. We will also be asking volunteers if they would like to participate. This in NOT just an animal staff activity. Boat drivers, Gift shop staff and Subway personnel will all be working to make this event a success.

As far as manning all the booths, etc we are looking at approaching Naples High School or volunteers (a class, a club, etc) to assist with the majority of it. Also,

we would like to ask Naples for the park.	s High School art classes to	help us with decorations

## Naples Zoo Howl-O-Ween

#### How To's

ANY child that has paid admission to get into the Zoo (member, buy-one-get one, FL Resident, etc) gets a strip of 10 tickets to use to Trick-Or-Treat thru the zoo.

At each candy station they will turn in the appropriate ticket (they are numbered 1-10) in exchange for a piece of candy.

At the END of these events:

Meet the Keeper: Kangaroos Planet Predator Show AM & PM Alligator Feedings Serpents Fangs & Fiction Show

Meet the Keeper: Lions Meet the Keeper: Tigers **All Day Stations:** 

SUBWAY Boat Dock Gift Shop

If a child is under 4 (and therefore didn't pay to get into the zoo) and they want to get candy at the Trick-Or-Treat Stations, **they must buy a Goodie Bag** (with a strip of ten tickets). The tickets are good for the candy, and the Goodie Bag gets them an additional prize at each candy station.

**ANYone can buy a Goodie Bag** (children, adults, etc) once they have entered the zoo. The bags are \$2.00 each. By presenting their Goodie Bags at the Candy Stations, they will get additional prizes (beyond the candy for their tickets).

If a family donates a pumpkin, they get **two free Goodie Bags** each with a set of tickets.

ALL the proceeds from the Goodie Bags go directly back to the Behavioral Enrichment Program. This program gives new toys, puzzle feeders, etc to the animals. The program makes sure the animals are stimulated both physically and mentally to exhibit natural behaviors both on display and off.

There will be examples of enrichment happening all over the zoo throughout the day—most importantly the **Tigers and Lions will have carve pumpkins in the afternoon**.

The **Costume Contest** is open to children under 16—it will be taking place in the Safari Canyon stage at 1:00pm. There will be prizes for everyone who participates!

The **Animal Encounter** is open to ANYone willing to try. It will be at the Sulfur Springs area 12:30 to 1pm.

#### 2006 AAZK National Conference Enrichment Discussion Session

Topic: Enrichment Day (moderator Dawn Neptune)

#### Identify goals:

- Educate and increase the public's awareness about the importance of enrichment for captive animals
- Increase staff, management and public support of program
- Create an event that is entertaining and fun for the public, staff, volunteers and of course, the animals
- Establish a connection from visitor to animal
- Collaborate w/ toy suppliers and other facilities

#### Challenges/Obstacles to attaining goals:

- Get support from various departments in the zoo (education, horticulture, senior staff, green team)
- Create enthusiasm around Enrichment Day
- Organizing keeper staff and volunteers- utilizing schedules, planning committees, "cliff note" summaries
- New and different ideas each year
- Create fun ways of educating people about enrichment
- How to explain what is going on and why; convey a uniform message utilizing themes, logos, graphics, etc.
- Time & Financing

#### Solutions and Ideas:

- Use volunteers, schools, businesses, etc. to help man booths and participate in fundraising, minimizing keeper time invested
- Start small and build every year, increasing interest and participation
- Illustrate to management how enrichment can contribute to public perception and quality viewing experience (do short-term studies of animal visibility, survey guests about enrichment, measure attendance, revenue)
- Use interdepartmental participation to make enrichment and man stations (marketing/PR, horticulture, maintenance, education, etc.)
- Interactive stations allowing for dialog and answering questions from the public- hands on and visuals!
- Signage at the exhibits, interactive keeper talks, greeters, people at the stations- schedule of events, banners, Tshirts, handouts
- Poll education and keeper staff and volunteers about ideas for the day
- Research what other zoos have done in the past, visit other zoos' enrichment days; utilize listserves
- Offer workshops and classes
- Get support from local businesses

Miscellaneous ideas compiled from multiple facilities: novelty exhibit/environmental memory game, catch a bug game, enrich your yard for native wildlife, "Be the Keeper" game, make bubbles, guess the animal vocalization, 'Enrichment Safari'

scavenger hunt, giraffe tongue feeder simulation, hula hoops, exploration stations, pet enrichment, piñatas, involve visitors in enrichment data collection, tactile/sensation box (i.d. the mystery item by touch), i.d. the mystery scent, paint like an elephant w/ pool noodles, enrichment environment vs. non-enriched, "come play the animal way" foraging opportunities, fishing for fruit loops, browse buffet, flip card/matching game- animal to enrichment, "if you were a \_\_\_\_\_, what enrichment would you like" game, fire department hose games

Seasonal/Special Events: "Bob the Builder" day, Christmas or snow days in July, Easter enrichment (piñata eggs), pumpkin stomp, breakfast with the animals, zoo snooze- nocturnal enrichment, Cinco de Mayo, Adopt an Animal parent days

Fundraisers: pet product supplier sponsorships, animal art auction, gift sponsorships (i.e. enrichment "Giving Tree"), corporate sponsorships, build a birdhouse/bat house class, training classes