Willow Park Zoo Enrichment Internship
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Introduction

In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, the USDA requires zoos to have a written history and documented plan of enrichment activities, especially for nonhuman primates. Enrichment activities are interactive ways to keep an animal mentally occupied in captivity. As an Enrichment Intern at Willow Park Zoo I was able to use local resources and creativity to create such activities for two Capuchin Monkeys housed there.

Creating a System for Daily Enrichment

• Created 12 unique weekly enrichment plans with different activities to be provided everyday
• Prepared all of the enrichment activities once a week for zoo staff to administer on the appointed day
• Used imagination and materials found at the zoo to make activities

Enrichment Activities

Left: Log with holes drilled on all sides
Right: Log attached to tree with various treats hidden inside holes, promoting foraging and enhancing fine motor skills

Outcome

The importance of having a system of challenging enrichment plans was apparent as I observed the high intelligence of these Capuchin Monkeys. Over the course of the internship, I created and implemented enrichment plans that have continued to be used by Willow Park Zoo. Through learning and creativity I was able to create a system of enrichment for these intelligent animals.

Acknowledgments

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