



Critter Keeper

Our keepers work with animals that would not make good pets, but you can use the techniques they do every day to help take better care of your pet!

Objectives: Campers will be able to:

- Understand the difference between pets and wild animals
- Understand animals needs

Supplies:

- Notebook/paper
- Writing utensils
- Computer/phone to watch facebook live videos
- Enrichment supplies (varies depending on messy version or less messy version)
 - Less Messy
 - Cardboard box
 - Cardboard tube
 - Pet treats
 - Scents diluted with some water (vanilla, lemon extract, lavender, peppermint)
 - Messy
 - News paper
 - Flour and Water
 - Paint
 - Balloons or boxes
 - Pet treats
 - Ice cube tray
 - Freezer

Your Challenge: Create a weekly care plan for your pet or a pet you would like to have in the future! Your plan should include: diet/feeding schedule, enrichment/exercise schedule, cleaning and training. Keep this challenge in mind while you do the other activities.

Activity 1: Brainstorm!

Think about animals you or your friends have as pets, and animals that we have at the zoo. Think about what makes a good pet, and what makes a not so good pet. Write a list of those characteristics down. Try to think beyond just the animal but what about that animal that makes it a good or not good pet.

Activity 2: Watch the last 3 facebook live videos (www.henryvilaszoo.gov/zoo-at-home). Pay close attention to and write observations for.

- 1) The animal's enclosure
- 2) What we feed the animal
- 3) How we train them and why
- 4) The word enrichment

Activity 3: Make some pet enrichment

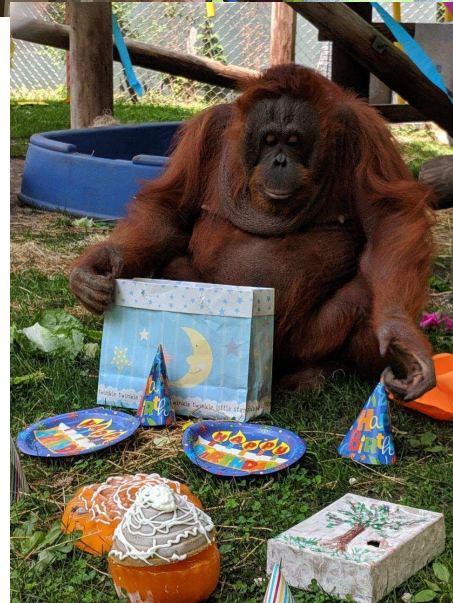
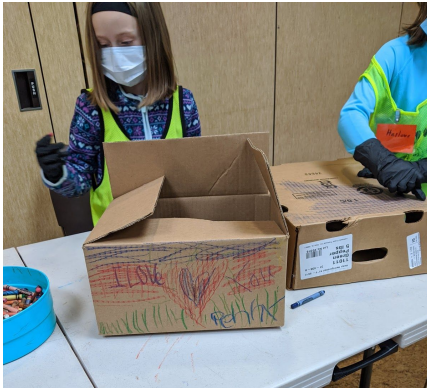
Enrichment is a zoo word that means anything novel unique or exciting for an animal to interact with that encourages natural behaviors. Enrichment often focuses on the 5 senses. A cat toy is a great example of enrichment for your pet, but you can be inspired by our zoo's enrichment team and build your own!

Less messy version: Place a high reward treat item in a box or cardboard tube and observe the animal playing with it.

Place a new smell (natural smells diluted in water like vanilla or lavender are good) on a crumpled up piece of paper and observe your animal's interaction.

Messy version: Make paper mache! Use strips of newspaper and a combination of flour and water for paste and cover a novel object like a balloon or make a fun shaped box (be sure to leave a small hole to place treats in/pop the balloon). Allow to dry. Paint the enrichment so it's a fun color for your animal. Allow to dry (if using a balloon be sure to remove all balloon fragments). Place treats or their daily diet in the enrichment and observe their interactions.

Ice treats! Freeze some of your animals favorite food and give them the frozen block.



Examples from the zoo: (1 & 4) boxes stuffed with paper and threats for orangutans, (2) paper bags stuffed with treats for golden lion tamarins (3) porcupine receiving ice treats (4) Orangutan Chelsea receiving ice treats and paper mache on her birthday (5) Harmon the Rhino receiving paper mache on valentines day.

Activity 4: Challenge time! Now that you have had a chance to brainstorm, observe our animals and your own it's time for you to make a care plan! Your plan should include: diet/feeding schedule, enrichment/exercise schedule, cleaning and training.