



Vietnam Bear Rescue Centre

Pools in our enclosures offer resident moon bears a choice to express a range of behaviours including swimming, floating, and playing with enclosure-mates. The pools also offer a welcome chance cool down in the hot, tropical climate of northern Vietnam. On occasion bears will choose to carry their toys or browse into the pool where they will spend time nosing or thrashing them about in the water. The teams caring for the bears will also occasionally place into the pool some of the fresh fruit and vegetables from the bears' daily diet, further encouraging play and investigation as individuals 'bob' for their food.



55 gallon barrels our bears love to play with on land and in the pools. They last a while until they bust them into two and even then they play with the half barrels. The best part is these are donated so we get them from Free!

Julie Yarrington, Como Zoo

Fire Hose Tire Hammock



Fire hose tire hammock provides a bed, a place to hide food or an obstacle to move. Can be moved, hung, or placed on the ground. With the weave of the material you can also string browse through it or top with hay.

Very versatile and an absolute favorite!!!

Bethany Gates; Dickerson Park Zoo

Meryt Schumacher

Denver Zoo

Trash cans are one of the favorite enrichment items for our polar bears. They come in a variety of sizes and can be used for many things. We use them to make ice treats, fill with water to bob for fruit or minnows. We can stuff food items in them. Create dig boxes with wood wool and shavings. We can stick two together to create a puzzle feeder. We hang them up with food inside. And we give them just the trash can.





Wooden frame with a log-puzzle. We used the puzzle for food enrichment – a bear has to turn the log to reach dog food. At the same time we use all construction for food and sensor enrichment. Bear has to climb and look for food or new smell or toys like brooms or baskets.

Four Paws Bear Rescue Centre Nadiya

M. Shkvyria



Hanging PVC Puzzle Feeder

Construct PVC feeder so the open end is slightly higher than the closed end when hanging. Hang by top chain so PVC is higher than the bear can reach. Fill with treats. Bear must manipulate the lower handle with chain to get the treats to fall out of the PVC.

Can increase difficulty by shortening length of chain at top and adding hay/leaves into PVC to prevent treats from coming out. Could also add bolts through PVC to add difficulty.

Amanda Cronberg
Great Plains Zoo

Zoo Knoxville, Tennessee

3.1 North American Black Bears

Enrichment: fire hose hanging toys and puzzle feeders





Trader Joe's Pallet

This is used as a puzzle feeder for Anoki; it can be given free on the ground, attached to hooks on the ground, hung against the den walls, or hung from the center of her off exhibit yard. We put different diet items or novel foods in each compartment and she will work on it until everything is gone.

Tanya White

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore



Mirrors to look at self, or bears in adjacent enclosures, or staff activity down the hall.

M. Babitz

Sharon Herrell, Bear Curator
North American Bear Center – Ely, MN

Enrichment Device #3 – Log Pile

Description: A simple pile of logs with treats hidden under them. The logs are long and heavy but the bear easily moves them to get the treats on the bottom of the stack. Some logs have holes drilled in them where treats are inserted.

This is Ted (19 ½ year-old male) searching for treats in the log pile. This helps keep his mind active finding the treats under the logs.



Sharon Herrell, Bear Curator
North American Bear Center – Ely, MN.

Enrichment Device #2 – Feeder Tire

Description: 19” Feeder Tire with three 1½ inch holes drilled on one side.

This is Lucky (9 ½ year old male) manipulating the donut to get the treats out. This activity utilizes his problem solving ability to the treats from the inside.



This is Ted (19 ½ year old male) manipulating the tire to get treats.



Ashley Martin

North Carolina Zoo

This is Cousin It. We create lots of different items out of paper mache and fill them with treats and other toys. We made a giant hot pink 16 for her birthday, footballs for super bowl picks, seals, light bulbs for earth hour, and Mrs. Packman and the ghosts. It also is a big hit with our visitors.



Hammocks made from lightweight, but durable nylon webbing.
Hanoi Zoo; Animals Asia & BCG





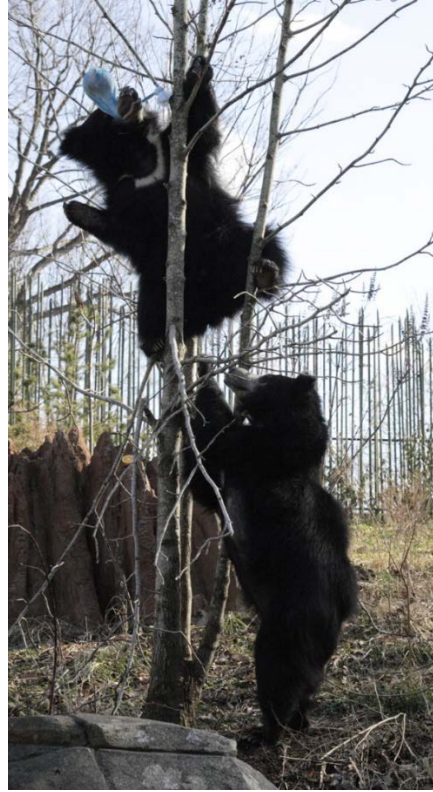
Bubble bath in a tire! Rubber tub inside tire filled w/ water & non-toxic bubble bath.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Firehose knots! Fill with food, tie in knot. Bear has to undo knot and get food out.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Wrapping food in cloth, tying up, and hanging from tree branch.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Puzzle feeder hanging from tree branch.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Burlap filled with hay and urine from another bear.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Old sheets, towels, blankets, comforters, rags for bedding.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Substrate pits.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



Substrate tub for digging in indoor holding enclosure.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park; M. Babitz



PVC insect feeder hung on outside of mesh; small holes for sucking/licking insects out

Oakland Zoo; M. Babitz

Bottle feeder

Made from a culligan jug and pvc pipe.

As the bottle is spun around food slowly falls out from the top of the jug.



Rolling Hills Zoo

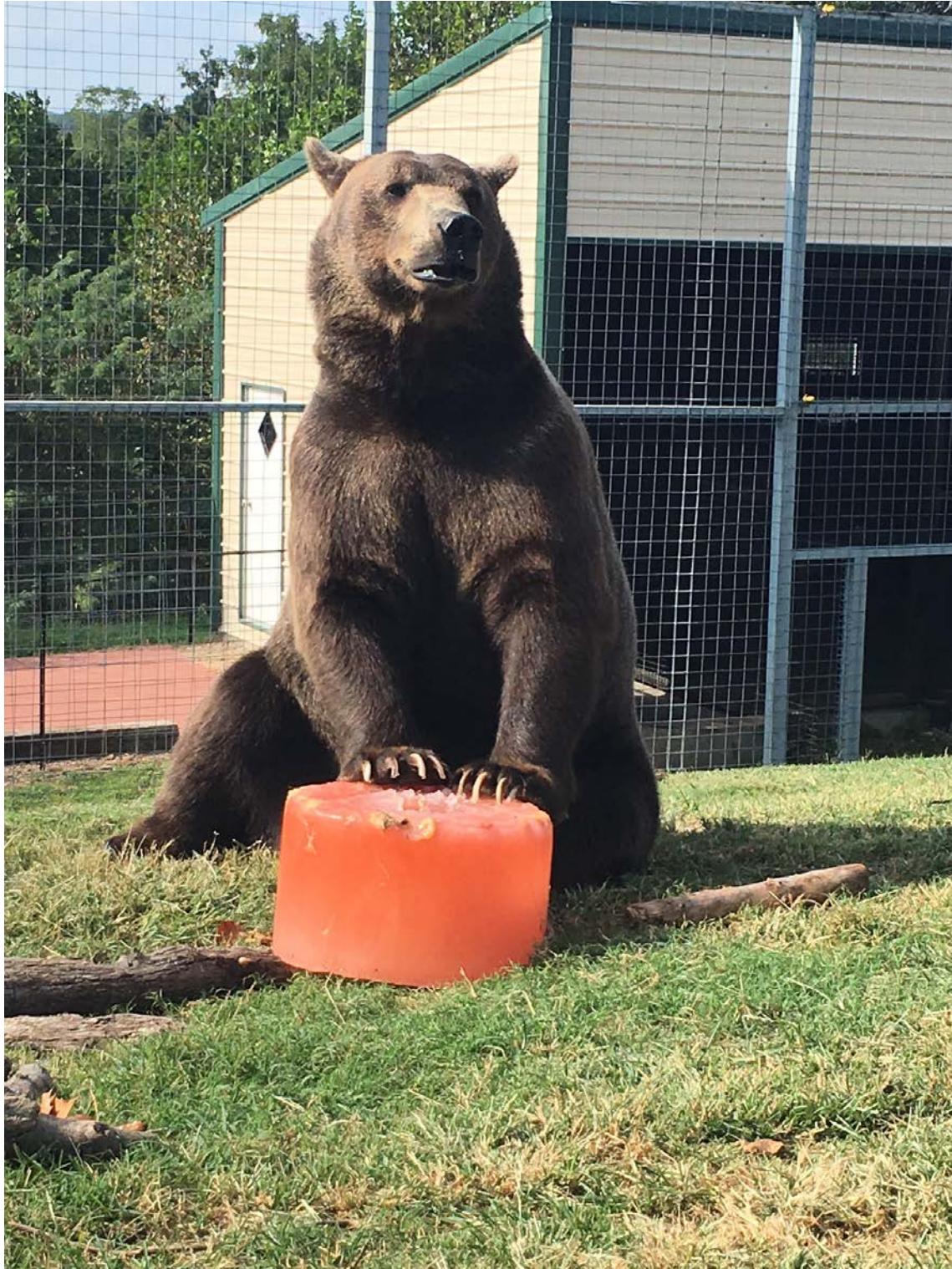
By Robert Prinsen and Siarra Abker

Enrichment Activity



Trash? No way! These perfume inserts that come included in many magazines and catalogs are excellent for scent enrichment. Just open it up, and rub the scented part on any toy/log/rock/etc. you like! It provides a great variety of scents without having to buy an entire bottle, and as a bonus, it helps the bears keep up with the latest perfume/cologne trends!

Submitted by: Lindsey Davis, Sedgwick County Zoo



Here is Bam Bam, a grizzly bear, from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The enrichment is a sugar free Kool-Aid ice pop with some chunks of banana in it. We also placed his morning produce on it/inside of it for him to dig out. He could use his claws to dig out the produce and take chunks out of it. Photo taken by Mary Schlieve, Staff Biologist at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Jamie Petrie

Topeka Zoo



This PVC feeder is great for encouraging a foraging behavior. You can place special treats, diet items, or condiments in the PVC tube, and they have to maneuver it to get everything out. Holes can vary in size to make it easier or harder, and dimension of the pipe will be dependent on the bear, because you want them to be able to lick all of the honey, salad dressing, jelly, etc. out of it; if it's too wide they won't be able to get all of the item out. Cheap, easy to build, and keeps them busy!

Heather Roberts, Zoo Atlanta

Biscuit feeder (used with giant pandas and sun bears) seen here with Mei Lun and Mei Huan, May 2015

