



## **Cheetah Outreach Animal Enrichment Plan**

We can improve the welfare of our animals by using environmental and behavioral enrichment to enhance their physical, social, cognitive and psychological well being. Enrichment is just as critical to our animals' welfare as nutrition and veterinary care.

One of the most important roles of enrichment is increasing behavioural choices and encouraging species-typical behavior. We have looked at the physiology and natural and individual history of each animal at Cheetah Outreach to come up with a goal-oriented enrichment plan and appropriate ideas to elicit natural behaviours. The plan includes goals and enrichment activities to use for each animal at Cheetah Outreach.

The use of a randomized schedule of enrichment provides a greater degree of novelty and reduces the habituation to enrichment treatments. A monthly enrichment schedule is provided for each animal to ensure that enrichment is done consistently and that activities are varied each month. Activities may be done on any day and at any time. Responses to enrichment activities are documented on monthly activity forms and data is stored in a database which produces monthly reports that are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and monthly schedules, and make changes where necessary.

### **Environmental Enrichment**

One of the goals of our enrichment programme is to provide a more stimulating environment for each animal and increase the use of enclosure space. Enriched environments provide choices to animals, privacy and a sense of security as well opportunities for climbing, leaping and jumping, rubbing. Elevated sites are especially important for cheetahs. The changing of enclosure furniture will also promote curiosity.

### **Food Enrichment**

Foraging behaviors are important to the well-being of carnivores. Different ways of presenting food can stimulate the cats and encourage natural hunting behaviors, including stalking, crouching, pouncing, chasing, leaping, jumping, climbing, grabbing and pulling. In the case of the jackals and meerkat, it can encourage more natural foraging.

## **Sensory Enrichment**

Olfactory enrichment can encourage investigation of smells, and resulting scent-marking, rubbing and grooming. Visual enrichment can provide visual access to other animals and activities through elevated sites.

## **Novel Enrichment**

Increasing the diversity of natural behaviors can be accomplished through enrichment devices or novel objects that can be manipulated by the animal. These objects promote exploration as well as natural play and hunting behaviors.

## **Social Enrichment**

Social groupings can encourage a whole repertoire of behavior that comes from living in a group, including social, territorial and courtship behaviors (this is especially important for male cheetahs). Social interaction with caretakers reduces stresses in captivity by building a positive relationship with humans. Human interaction is particularly important for a social species like meerkats.

## **Exercise**

Exercise through runs, walks and play encourages activity and maintains a healthy physical condition, as well as providing mental stimulation.

## **Behavioral Conditioning**

Behavioral conditioning increases the intellectual focus of an animal. Animals choose to participate in these sessions to maintain established or learn new behaviors. Behavioral conditioning can also strengthen the trust between handler and animal.

<b>ADULT CHEETAH</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, running, chewing) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents and consequential rubbing and scent-marking through olfactory enrichment.</li> <li>• Increase visual stimulation through elevated sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Shade area with thatched roof or shade cloth
	Platforms/large wooden boxes
	Scattered logs and branches
	Large exercise enclosure
<b>Food</b>	Whole or partial carcasses (horse or wild game)
	Whole or partial rabbits with fur
	Whole or partial birds with feathers
	Large bones
	Meat with fur on it
	Raw horse or wild game skin
	Bloodsicles with pieces meat inside
	Raw eggs
	Meat in watermelons
	Meat in boxes
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in running enclosure
	Switching enclosures with other cheetahs
	Visual contact with other cheetahs, small carnivores and dogs
	Walking other animals next to enclosures
	Straw from other cheetah or small predator enclosures
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Balls
	Kong toys
	Cardboard prey animal
	Mop
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other adult cheetahs and cubs through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with the public through encounters, walks and functions
<b>Exercise</b>	Runs
	Walks on harness and lead
	Chasing plastic bottle or bird wing attached to whip or long palm frond
<b>Training</b>	Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Jumping up on objects and sitting on command
	Venue training (inside and outside)
	Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
	Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

<b>CHEETAH CUB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, running, chewing) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage socialization with humans through bonding with handlers and volunteers.</li> <li>• Prepare for ambassadorial duties through behavioral conditioning.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Shade area with thatched roof or shade cloth
	Platforms/large wooden boxes
	Scattered logs and branches
	Large splash pool (during summer)
	Large exercise enclosure
<b>Food</b>	Parts of rabbit with fur on it
	Large bones
	Meat with fur on it
	Bloodsicles with pieces meat inside
	Raw eggs
	Meat in watermelons
	Meat in papier-mâché balls or boxes
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in running enclosure
	Switching enclosures with other cheetahs
	Visual contact with other cheetahs, small carnivores and dogs
	Walking other animals next to enclosures
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Rubber, rope and fire hose toys
	Balls
	Tyres
	Toys hung on bungee cord
	Toys and plastic bottles in splash pool filled with water (during summer)
	Cardboard boxes
	Cardboard prey animal
<b>Social</b>	Interaction and play with other cubs
	Interaction with other cheetahs through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with the public through encounters, walks and functions
<b>Exercise</b>	Runs
	Walks on harness and lead
	Chasing plastic bottle or bird wing attached to whip or long palm frond
<b>Training</b>	Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Jumping up on objects and sitting on command
	Venue training (inside and outside)
	Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)



<b>SERVAL</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, pouncing, leaping, grabbing) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Scattered logs, climbing limbs and branches
	Patches of tall grass and vegetation
	Platforms
	Splash pool or pond
<b>Food</b>	Whole or partial wild game carcasses
	Pieces of rabbit with fur
	Meat with fur on it
	Large bones
	Whole or partial birds with feathers
	Whole rats and mice
	Baby chicks
	Raw eggs
	Milksicles
	Jumping for chicks, mice or meat on sticks
	Meat inside long tube or box with holes
	Scattering meat on logs, branches and platforms
	Throwing pieces of meat in air
	Hanging meat from pole
	Fish/meat inside watermelon
	Fish/meat/mice in papier-mâché balls
	Fish/meat inside rubber ball with holes or in Kong toy
	Fish/meat/mice in water in splash pool
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in other enclosures
	Visual contact with other animals
	Snake skin
	Springbok hide
	Bales of straw or straw from other animals
	Playing with water from hosepipe or sprinkler
	Fresh and dried catmint
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Soft, rubber or rope toys
	Toy hung from bungee cord
	Balls
	Feathers
	Bags of leaves
	Cardboard boxes

	Roll of toilet paper
	Plastic bottles, balls or other toys in splash pool
	Blowing bubbles into splash pool
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other serval
	Interaction with other animals through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with public through encounters
<b>Exercise</b>	Walks
	Chasing and jumping for plastic bottle, toy, feather or bird wing attached to whip
<b>Training</b>	Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Jumping up on objects and sitting on command
	Venue training (inside and outside)
	Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
	Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

<b>CARACAL</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, pouncing, leaping, climbing) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Scattered logs, climbing limbs and branches
	Patches of tall grass and vegetation
	Platforms
	Moveable small dog house
<b>Food</b>	Whole or partial wild game carcasses
	Whole squirrel with fur
	Meat with fur on it
	Large bones
	Large bone on bungee feeder
	Whole or partial birds with feathers
	Whole rats and mice
	Baby chicks
	Raw eggs
	Bloodsicles with pieces of meat or mouse inside, milksicles
	Large bloodsicle hung on bungee feeder
	Scattering meat on logs, branches and platforms
	Jumping for chicks, mice or meat on sticks
	Hanging chicks, mice or meat from pole
	Meat/mice inside watermelon
	Meat/mice in water in splash pool
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in other enclosures
	Visual contact with other animals
	Straw from other animals
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Rubber or rope toys
	Toy hung from bungee cord
	Balls
	Feathers
	Boxes with leaves inside
	Cardboard boxes
	Coconut, pine cone
	Plastic bottles, balls or other toys in splash pool with or without water
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other animals through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with public through encounters
<b>Exercise</b>	Walks



	Chasing and jumping for plastic bottle, toy, feather or bird wing attached to whip
<b>Training</b>	Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Jumping up on objects and sitting on command
	Venue training (inside and outside)
	Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
	Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

<b>BLACK-BACKED JACKAL</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (chasing, pouncing, foraging) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Scattered logs and branches
	Patches of tall grass and vegetation
	Platforms
<b>Food</b>	Whole or partial wild game carcasses
	Pieces of rabbit with fur/rabbit heads
	Meat with fur on it
	Raw horse or wild game skin
	Large bones
	Whole or partial birds with feathers
	Whole rats and mice
	Baby chicks
	Chicken feet, heads and knuckles
	Raw or hard-boiled eggs
	Bloodsicles with pieces of meat or mouse inside
	Peanuts (raw and in shell)
	Rawhide/dried pig ears/biltong
	Scattering meat, pellets and banana soaked in blood around enclosure
	Hiding small pieces of meat/sardines in piles of logs and under bark of tree
	Meat/mice inside watermelon
	Meat/fruit in pine cones
	Meat/mice inside paper towel rolls, boxes or papier-mâché balls
	Meat/mice in water in splash pool
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in other enclosures
	Visual contact with other animals
	Straw from other animals
	Other animal feces (baked first)
	Snake skin
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Boomer ball
	Cardboard boxes
	Coconut
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other jackal
	Interaction with other animals through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
<b>Exercise</b>	Walks
	Chasing plastic bottle or bird wing on whip (outside fence)

<b>Training</b>	Station holding (holding on platform during feeding)
	Collar and lead training

<b>BAT-EARED FOX</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (chasing, pouncing, digging, foraging) through food, sensory and novel enrichment, exercise and behavioral conditioning.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
	Scattered logs and branches
	Area for digging burrows
<b>Food</b>	Live insects and grubs
	Dried mealworms
	Whole mice/unborn rats
	Baby chicks
	Bird wings
	Meat with fur on it
	Turkey bones
	Chicken knuckles
	Bloodsicles with meat or mice inside
	Raw eggs
	Honey on logs and trees (small amounts)
	Whole fruits and vegetables
	Peanuts (raw and in shells)
	Scattering food around enclosure
	Hiding food in piles of logs and under bark
	Burying insects in sandbox
	Food inside basket feeder
	Food inside puzzle feeder
	Food in splash pool filled with small plastic balls
	Food inside papier-mâché balls, toilet paper rolls and egg cartons
	Food in pine cones
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in other enclosures
	Visual contact with other animals
	Straw from other animals
	Dried catnip
	Use blankets
	Springbok hide
	Snake skin
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Soft, rubber and rope toys
	Balls
	Feather duster
	Whip with toys or feathers
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other bat-eared foxes

	Interaction with other animals through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with public through encounters
<b>Exercise</b>	Chasing whip with Kong toy, soft toys, feathers or bird wing
	Jumping for chicks/mice on sticks
<b>Training</b>	Target training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

<b>MEERKATS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage activity through play and exercise.</li> <li>• Encourage natural behaviors (foraging, digging) through food, sensory and novel enrichment and walks.</li> <li>• Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, and marking through olfactory enrichment and walks.</li> <li>• Encourage social behaviors through interaction with caretakers.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Den
	Vegetation
	Mounds and artificial tunnels
	Logs and platforms
	Areas for digging
<b>Food</b>	Live insects and grubs
	Dried mealworms
	Whole mice/unborn rats
	Baby chicks
	Meat with fur on it
	Bones and chicken knuckles
	Raw eggs
	Milksicles
	Honey on logs and trees (small amounts)
	Whole fruits and vegetables
	Peanuts (raw and in shells) and sunflower seeds
	Scattering food around enclosure
	Hiding food in piles of logs, in crevices and holes and under bark
	Burying insects in sandbox
	Food inside watermelon, pumpkin or squash with holes
	Food inside basket feeder
	Food inside puzzle feeder
	Food inside treat balls
	Food in splash pool filled with small plastic balls
	Food inside papier-mâché balls, egg cartons or toilet paper rolls
	Food in pine cones
	Foraging during walks and in other enclosures (turning over logs and rocks to expose insects and other prey)
<b>Sensory</b>	Spending time in other enclosures
	Visual contact with other animals
	Straw from other animals
	Dried catnip on blanket
	Springbok hide
	Bubbles
	Brushing
<b>Novel</b>	Soft toys

	Balls
	Feathers
	Whip with toys or feathers
	Cardboard boxes
<b>Social</b>	Interaction with other meerkat
	Interaction with other animals through fence
	Interaction with handlers and volunteers
	Interaction with public through encounters
<b>Exercise</b>	Walks
	Foraging in larger enclosures
	Chasing toy or feathers on whip
<b>Training</b>	Target training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
	Harness and lead training
	Jumping up on objects and sitting on command
	Venue training (inside and outside)
	Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

## **Enrichment Precautions and Restrictions**

- Food used for enrichment or training is generally subtracted from meals.
- All animal skins and bones are given only after feeding.
- Bloodsicles are limited to 2 per animal per month.
- Fish is thawed before using and only given to servals and occasionally to caracal.
- Chicks are de-yolked before giving to animals.
- No grapes, raisins or cranberries are given to any of our animals.
- Only small amounts of honey, peanut butter or peanuts are given.
- Fruits and vegetables high in sugar are avoided.
- Other animal feces are sterilized before use.
- No loose toys or novel objects are left in enclosures without supervision.