



## **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.

# **Adult Cheetah**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, running, chewing) through food and novel enrichment, and exercise
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents and consequential rubbing and scent-marking through olfactory enrichment
- 4) Increase visual stimulation through elevated sites

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Shade area with thatched roof or shade cloth
- 3) Platforms/large wooden boxes
- 4) Scattered logs
- 5) Large exercise enclosure

### Food

- 1) Whole or partial large carcasses (horse or wild game)
- 2) Whole or partial rabbits
- 3) Large bones
- 4) Meat with fur on it
- 5) Raw horse or wild game skin
- 6) Bloodsicles with pieces of meat inside
- 7) Raw eggs
- 8) Meat in watermelons
- 9) Meat inside papier-mâché balls or boxes

### Sensory

- 1) Spending time in running enclosure
- 2) Switching enclosures with other cheetahs
- 3) Visual contact with other cheetahs, small carnivores and dogs
- 4) Walking other animals next to enclosures
- 5) Straw from other cheetah or small predator enclosures
- 6) Brushing

### Novel

- 1) Boomer and soccer balls
- 2) Cardboard prey animal
- 3) Mop

## Social

- 1) Interaction with other adult cheetahs and cubs through fence
- 2) Interaction with staff and volunteers
- 3) Interaction with the public through encounters, walks and functions

## Exercise

- 1) Runs
- 2) Walks on harness and lead
- 3) Chasing plastic bottle or bird wing attached to whip

## Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 2) Harness and lead training
- 3) Jumping on objects and sitting on command
- 4) Venue training (inside and outside)
- 5) Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
- 6) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

# **Cheetah Cubs**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, running, chewing) through food and novel enrichment, and exercise
- 3) Encourage socialization with humans through bonding with handlers and volunteers
- 4) Prepare for ambassadorial duties through behavioral conditioning

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Thatched shelter for shade and protection from rain and wind
- 3) Platforms/large wooden boxes
- 4) Splash pool (during summer)
- 5) Large exercise enclosure

### Food

- 1) Meat with fur on it
- 2) Parts of rabbit with fur
- 3) Large bones
- 4) Bloodsicles with pieces of meat inside
- 5) Raw eggs
- 6) Meat inside watermelons
- 7) Meat inside papier-mâché balls or boxes

### Sensory

- 1) Spending time in running enclosure
- 2) Spending time in other cheetah enclosures
- 3) Visual contact with other cheetahs, small carnivores and dogs
- 4) Walking other animals next to enclosure

### Novel

- 1) Plastic bottles, rubber/plastic balls and toys in splash pool
- 2) Balls, Kong toys, rope toys and fire hose toys
- 3) Toys/balls hung from bungee cord
- 4) Ostrich feathers
- 5) Cardboard boxes
- 6) Cardboard prey animal
- 7) Flying disc made of cardboard
- 8) Papier-mâché balls

## Social

- 1) Interaction with cheetahs through fence
- 2) Interaction with staff and volunteers
- 3) Interaction with the public through encounters, walks and functions

## Exercise

- 1) Runs
- 2) Walks on harness and lead
- 3) Chasing plastic bottle, bird wing, animal hide or other toys attached to whip

## Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 2) Harness and lead training
- 3) Jumping on objects and sitting on command
- 4) Venue training (inside and outside)
- 5) Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
- 6) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

# **Servals**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, pouncing, leaping, grabbing) through food and novel enrichment
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Scattered logs, climbing limbs and branches
- 3) Patches of tall grass and vegetation
- 4) Platforms
- 5) Underground burrow
- 6) Splash pool

### Food

- 1) Whole or partial wild game carcasses
- 2) Pieces of rabbit with fur
- 3) Meat with fur on it
- 4) Large bones
- 5) Whole or partial birds with feathers
- 6) Whole rats and mice
- 7) Baby chicks
- 8) Raw eggs
- 9) Scattering meat on logs and platforms
- 10) Throwing pieces of meat in air
- 11) Hanging meat from pole
- 12) Meat inside long tube or box with holes
- 13) Fish/meat inside watermelon
- 14) Fish/meat/mice in papier-mâché balls
- 15) Fish/meat inside rubber ball with holes or in Kong toy
- 16) Fish/meat/mice in water in splash pool
- 17) Foraging for snakes, lizards, frogs and mice on walks

### Sensory

- 1) Visual contact with cheetahs, other servals, caracal, jackals, bat-eared foxes, dogs
- 2) Spending time in other enclosures
- 3) Walking other animals next to enclosure
- 4) Snake skin

- 5) Springbok hide
- 6) Fresh catmint
- 7) Rub fish gel on objects
- 8) Brushing

#### Novel

- 1) Soft, rubber or rope toys
- 2) Toy hung from bungee cord
- 3) Balls
- 4) Feathers
- 5) Bags of leaves
- 6) Cardboard boxes
- 7) Roll of toilet paper
- 8) Plastic bottles, balls or other toys in splash pool
- 9) Blowing bubbles into splash pool
- 10) Playing with water from hosepipe or sprinkler

#### Social

- 1) Interaction with other serval, caracal, bat-eared foxes and dogs through fence
- 2) Interaction with staff and volunteers

#### Exercise

- 1) Walks
- 2) Chasing and jumping for plastic bottle, toy, feather or bird wing attached to whip

#### Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 2) Harness and lead training
- 3) Jumping on objects and sitting on command
- 4) Venue training (inside and outside)
- 5) Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
- 6) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)



# **Caracal**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (stalking, chasing, pouncing, leaping, jumping and climbing) through food and novel enrichment
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, marking and grooming through olfactory enrichment

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Scattered logs and climbing limbs
- 3) Patch of tall grass
- 4) Platforms
- 5) Moveable small dog house
- 6) Empty splash pool with branches

### Food

- 1) Whole or partial wild game carcasses
- 2) Whole squirrels with fur
- 3) Meat with fur on it
- 4) Large bones
- 5) Large bone on a bungee feeder
- 6) Whole or partial birds with feathers
- 7) Whole rats and mice
- 8) Baby chicks
- 9) Bloodsicles with pieces of meat or mouse inside
- 10) Large bloodsicle with rope hung on bungee feeder
- 11) Raw eggs
- 12) Scattering meat on logs, branches and platforms
- 13) Hanging meat, mice, baby chicks from poles
- 14) Meat inside watermelon
- 15) Meat inside boxes or papier-mache balls

### Sensory

- 1) Visual contact with cheetahs, servals, jackals and dogs
- 2) Walking other animals next to enclosure
- 3) Spending time in other enclosure
- 4) Brushing

### Novel

- 1) Soft, rope, rubber or Kong toys
- 2) Balls
- 3) Cardboard boxes
- 4) Mop
- 5) Blanket

### Social

- 1) Interaction with jackals and servals through fence, and with other animals while on walks
- 2) Interaction with staff and volunteers
- 3) Interaction with the public during encounters and on walks

### Exercise

- 1) Walks
- 2) Chasing whip with plastic bottle, Kong toy, feathers or bird wing

### Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 2) Harness and lead training
- 3) Jumping on objects and sitting on command
- 4) Venue training (inside and outside)
- 5) Transportation (loading and travelling in vehicles)
- 6) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

# **Black-backed Jackals**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and hunting behaviors (chasing, pouncing, foraging) through food and novel enrichment
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, and marking through olfactory enrichment

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Hut with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Scattered logs and branches
- 3) Patches of tall grass
- 4) Platform

### Food

- 1) Whole or partial wild game carcasses
- 2) Pieces of rabbit with fur/rabbit heads
- 3) Meat with fur on it
- 4) Raw horse or wild game skin
- 5) Large bones
- 6) Whole or partial birds with feathers
- 7) Whole rats and mice
- 8) Baby chicks
- 9) Grubs or meal worms buried in dirt
- 10) Bloodsicles with pieces of meat or mice inside
- 11) Raw or hardboiled eggs
- 12) Peanut butter or honey on logs and trees (small amounts)
- 13) Peanuts (raw and in shells)
- 14) Scattering meat, pellets and fruit soaked in blood around enclosure
- 15) Hiding small pieces of meat/sardines in piles of logs and under bark of tree
- 16) Throwing pieces of meat, peanuts or dog pellets in air
- 17) Meat inside watermelon or pumpkin
- 18) Meat in paper towel rolls, papier-mache balls or boxes
- 19) Meat and fruit in pine cones

### Sensory

- 1) Visual contact with caracal, meerkats, cheetahs and dogs
- 2) Spending time in other enclosures
- 3) Walking other animal next to enclosure
- 4) Rawhide/dried pig ears
- 5) Rub fish gel on objects

- 6) Straw from other enclosures
- 7) Other animal feces (baked first)

#### Novel

- 1) Boomer ball
- 2) Cardboard boxes

#### Social

- 1) Interaction with other jackal
- 2) Interaction with caracal through fence, and with servals and meerkats on walks
- 3) Interaction with staff and volunteers

#### Exercise

- 1) Walk on leads
- 2) Chasing bird wing on whip or feather duster (outside fence)

#### Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Collar and lead training
- 2) Station holding (holding on platform during feeding)

# **Bat-eared Foxes**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through play and exercise
- 2) Encourage natural play and foraging behaviors (chasing, pouncing, digging) through food and novel enrichment
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, and marking through olfactory enrichment

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Shelter with straw for shelter and privacy
- 2) Moveable small dog house
- 3) Scattered logs
- 4) Area for digging burrows

### Food

- 1) Live insects
- 2) Dried mealworms
- 3) Whole mice/unborn rats
- 4) Baby chicks
- 5) Meat with fur on it
- 6) Bones
- 7) Bloodsicles with meat or mice inside
- 8) Raw eggs
- 9) Honey on logs and trees (small amounts)
- 10) Whole fruits and vegetables
- 11) Peanuts (raw and in shells)
- 12) Scattering food around enclosure
- 13) Hiding food in piles of logs and under bark
- 14) Burying insects in sandbox
- 15) Food inside basket feeder
- 16) Food inside puzzle feeder
- 17) Food inside papier-mache balls
- 18) Meat and fruit in pine cones

### Sensory

- 1) Visual contact with caracal, servals and dogs
- 2) Walking other animal next to enclosure
- 3) Spending time in other enclosure
- 4) Fresh catmint or parsley
- 5) Dried catnip on a blanket
- 6) Straw from other enclosures

## 7) Springbok hide

### Novel

- 1) Soft, rubber and rope toys
- 2) Balls
- 3) Lightweight plastic balls in splash pool with treats buried underneath
- 4) Whip and toys/feathers/plastic bottle
- 5) Feather duster
- 6) Cardboard boxes

### Social

- 1) Interaction with other bat-eared foxes
- 2) Interaction with servals and dogs through fence, and with caracal and meerkats on walks
- 3) Interaction with staff and volunteers

### Exercise

- 1) Chasing whip with Kong toy, soft toys, feathers or bird wing
- 2) Jumping for chicks/mice on sticks

### Behavioral Conditioning

- 1) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 2) Harness and lead training
- 3) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)

# **Meerkats**

## **Enrichment Goals:**

- 1) Encourage activity through walks
- 2) Encourage natural behaviors (foraging, digging) through food enrichment and walks
- 3) Encourage investigation of scents, rubbing, and marking through olfactory enrichment and walks
- 4) Encourage social behaviors through interaction with caretakers

## **Current Enrichment:**

### Environmental

- 1) Den
- 2) Vegetation
- 3) Mounds and artificial tunnels
- 4) Logs and platforms
- 5) Vegetation

### Food

- 1) Live insects
- 2) Dried mealworms
- 3) Whole mice/unborn rats
- 4) Baby chicks
- 5) Meat with fur on it
- 6) Bones
- 7) Bloodsicles with meat or mice inside
- 8) Raw eggs
- 9) Whole fruits and vegetables
- 10) Peanuts (raw and in shells)
- 11) Honey on logs and branches (small amounts)
- 12) Scattering food around enclosure
- 13) Stuffing food in holes and crevices in logs and under bark
- 14) Food inside watermelons, pumpkins or squash
- 15) Food inside basket feeder
- 16) Food inside puzzle feeder
- 17) Food inside treat balls, papier-mache balls or in toilet paper rolls
- 18) Meat and fruit in pine cones
- 19) Foraging during walks and in other enclosures (turning over logs and rocks to expose insects and other prey)

### Sensory

- 1) Visual contact with jackals, dogs and rabbits

- 2) Walking other animals next to enclosure
- 3) Spending time in other enclosure
- 4) Fresh herbs (parsley, coriander, sage)
- 5) Springbok hide

#### Novel

- 1) Soft toys
- 2) Whip and feathers
- 3) Lightweight plastic balls in splash pool with treats underneath

#### Exercise

- 1) Walks
- 2) Spending time in larger enclosure
- 3) Chasing whip with feathers or toys
- 4) Jumping for chicks/mice on sticks

#### Social

- 1) Interaction with other meerkat
- 2) Interaction with servals, caracal, jackals, bat-eared foxes, dogs and cheetahs through fence during walks
- 3) Interaction with staff and volunteers

#### Behavioral Conditioning

- 4) Target and station training (with voice commands, signals and/or clicker)
- 5) Harness and lead training
- 6) Jumping on objects and sitting on command
- 7) Venue training (inside and outside)
- 8) Crate training (for visits to the vet, travel and in case of emergency)



## **Enrichment Precautions and Restrictions**

- All animal skins and bones are given within 30 minutes of feeding.
- Bloodsicles are limited to 2 per animal per month.
- Fish is thawed before using.
- 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.