Food Based Enrichment

In the wild most animals spend a large proportion of their time hunting or foraging for food. High quality food items are not usually easy to find, catch or break into so many species possess heightened senses or specialised adaptations that help them acquire their food. Captivity does not place the same pressure on animals to find their own food nor does it place upon them the same risks in the form of predation while foraging. However, a good enrichment program presents the animal’s food in novel and challenging ways to make use of their adaptations and senses and encourage them to engage with their food in a natural way.

For example, animals such as clouded leopards that hunt live prey can be provided with enrichment devices that simulate the movement of live prey and thus stimulate stalking and pouncing behaviours.

Food based enrichment can often be presented with novel objects or in puzzle form so that the animal may need to manipulate an object in order to liberate their food and in doing so they make use of their problem solving skills.

The goal with food based enrichment is to keep the animal engaged with food acquisition for longer in order to more accurately simulate their natural energy budget.
Bamboo Sacks

Enrichment for: Sun bears, orangutan

Construction time: 30 minutes per sack

Materials: Hessian sack, bamboo, saw, died food, vines, honey, jam or peanut butter

Directions:

• Saw the bamboo so that there is one closed end and one open end.
• Fill the bamboo with teats and vines and drizzle honey over the vines
• Drop the bamboo length-ways into the bottom of the hessian bag and sew it in place.
• Fill the rest of the hessian sack with vines, drizzle honey in and add a small handful of treats
• Sew the bag together at the top
• Roll the bag around the bamboo and sew again so that there are multiple layers of hessian around the bamboo and then sew the sack to itself to create a plump cylinder shape.

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

For the bears this activity encourages the use of their incredibly powerful jaws and claws which they use to rip the sack and the bamboo open. The hessian is an ideal material to use as it is incredibly hard wearing and thus simulates the effort and pressure a bear would have to exert to rip open a log to extract insects.

The orangutan tend to be more systematic and pick through the stitching. However, this activity will still keep them engaged for a long time as they must then sift through the leaves to extract all the treats.
Lychee bottles

Enrichment for: gibbons

Construction time: 5 minutes per animal

Materials: Plastic water bottles, string, lychees

Directions:

- Wash plastic bottles and remove any labels
- Make two small holes in the bottom end of the bottle and thread through a 40cm length of string
- Stuff lychees into plastic bottles (use lychees small enough to pass easily through the top), then stuff one larger lychee into the top of the bottle and suspend from the top of the cage
- Once the gibbon removes the first lychee the others will come out with a little manipulation

Natural behaviours encouraged:
This activity encourages the gibbons to stay off the ground and to persevere with a puzzle that requires manipulation.
Sheet food parcels
Enrichment for: orangutan
Construction time: 20 minutes per sack

Materials: scissors, brightly coloured sheets, scented items, food

Directions:

• Using the orangutan’s normal diet, cut their food into small pieces and mix it together to create a fruit salad.
• Cut brightly coloured sheets into small squares
• Place a small handful of the food onto each fabric square and then tie these squares into little parcels.
• Sprinkle scented items such as cinnamon, mixed spice or diluted food flavourings on the parcels.
• Place all the little parcels on a larger piece of sheet.
• Tie the larger sheet around the small parcels to make a treat sack

Natural behaviours encouraged:

This activity presents the food in a way that keeps the orangutan engaged and interested for much longer than simply handing them their food or placing it in their night-den. They must manipulate the parcels in order to find the food inside and the contents of each parcel will be a surprise. Not only is this an interesting way to present food but the orangutan is also provided with scent enrichment and visual enrichment from the patterns on the sheets which they often study in great detail and trace the patterns on the sheets with their fingers. In addition, when the food has been eaten the sheets become something to play with. Many of the orangutan will drape the sheets over their head or roll around in them. Therefore this activity is a very well rounded form of enrichment.
Bamboo Food Treats

Enrichment for species: macaques

Construction time: 15 minutes per device

Materials:

- Bamboo, saw, string, food such as dog biscuits, nuts seeds

Directions:

- Using a saw cut bamboo into segments with one end open and one end closed
- Drill two holes in top end of bamboo, thread a length of string through the holes
- Fill bamboo tubes with food and browse
- Tie the bamboo to the ceiling of the cage

Natural behaviours encouraged:

This activity presents food in an interesting and challenging way and requires the macaques to climb and then use dexterity and intelligence to manipulate the object to obtain the treats.

Health and Safety: Tie the string to the ceiling in a V shape so that it ties away from itself and thus mitigates the risk of strangulation.
“Happy Sacks”

Enrichment for: Orangutan, Sun bear, macaques, clouded leopard

Construction time: 40 minutes per sack

Materials: hessian sacks, a large piece of fruit, treat foods (such as nuts, raisins, jam and peanut butter) needle and string

Directions:

• Place a large piece of fruit such as a coconut, watermelon or papaya in the bottom corner of a hessian sack.
• Sew the first item tightly into the corner of the sack.
• Flip the sack over itself and place a small amount of treats (i.e. 3 or 4 nuts or pieces of dried fruit or a small smear of jam or peanut butter) or some chopped up fruit in this layer.
• Sew this layer off as you did the first.
• Repeat until you can no longer fold the bag over itself.

Variation: submerge the finished sack in water (you could flavor the water) and then place the sack in the freezer. The hessian soaks up the moisture and this makes the sacks even trickier to open.

Note for Clouded Leopard: use meat and cat treats as well as scents instead of the food items listed above. Tie the sack to the ceiling of the enclosure, if available do so using a bungee type cord or a bicycle tyre inner tube so that when the leopard pulls on the sack it will bounce around.

Natural/adaptive behaviours encouraged:

Orangutan: In the wild orangutan have to travel across vast areas in search of food and have extremely good spatial memory for where to find various food items. Their ability to find food not only relies on this spatial memory but also their ability to plan into the future and estimate when various trees will be fruiting so that they can move between areas accordingly. In captivity, orangutan do not have the need to use this incredible cognitive adaptation and therefore it is good to provide them with enrichment that will challenge them mentally as well as physically. The aim of this exercise is to present their food in an interesting way which encourages perseverance to obtain high quality food items, mimicking the fact that high quality food does not come easily in the wild. Every orangutan has their own unique method for opening their happy sacks which shows that they all employ their own unique problem solving skills. The sacks are made so that they are difficult to open but also intricate so that even when the bag is ripped apart the orangutan must carefully sift through every item to get each piece of food. An additional benefit to this exercise is that it removes the immediate relationship between humans as “food providers”. Clearly the orangutan will still realise that humans provide their food but by not simply handing them their food we hope to reduce the likelihood of the animals developing learned helplessness with regards to obtaining food. As a secondary form of enrichment the orangutans love to play in and nest with the sacks once they have emptied them of their contents.

Sun bear: these sacks stimulate the bear’s strong sense of smell so that they are motivated to open them without being able to actually see what’s inside. They then use their strong teeth and claws to rip
into the sacks as they might do to a log or a termite nest in the wild. This activity keeps them occupied for a long time because even once the sack is open they make sure that every leaf is licked clean and that every parcel is opened. Like orangutan, bears love to wrestle with and sleep with their sacks after they’ve finished eating the contents.

Clouded leopard: In the wild the clouded leopard hunts live prey. These behaviours can be encouraged by fixing the food to the ceiling on a cord that bounces up and down so that the leopard has to pin the sack down in order to tear into it. This enrichment also replicates live prey in that the leopard uses its teeth and claws to rip the sack apart as they would a prey animal. The leopard’s strong sense of smell is also stimulated, which is what motivates them to stalk and “hunt” the item.

**Health and Safety:**
For clouded leopard: Be sure to remove this enrichment the following day so that any left-over meat does not become fetid in the enclosure.
Fishing for treasure

Enrichment for: gibbons

Construction time: 15 minutes per device

Materials: Water bottles, string or twine, needles, food items

Directions:

• Thoroughly clean the bottles and remove any labels from them
• Cut the tops off each bottle to create a cup
• Using a large needle pierce two holes in opposite sides of the top of each cup
• Thread a length string through the holes of 2-3 cups
• Tie each end of string onto structures within the enclosure. Make sure the string is pulled fairly taught and that it is high off the ground but close to structures which the gibbons can climb on or hang from in order to reach into each cup.
• Place a small amount of food treats in each cup and top up with water. There should be a combination of food which floats and that which sinks
**Natural behaviours encouraged:**

This enrichment is great as it encourages the gibbons to stay off the ground. Each cup will sway and move independently of the others, making this quite a challenging task for the gibbons. The gibbons will either have to put their hands in to retrieve the food or tip water out of the cup to liberate the treats, thus this activity presents them with a simple puzzle to solve.
PVC T-bones
Enrichment for: gibbons
Construction time: 30 minutes per device

Materials: 15mm PVC, t-section and 3 caps for 15mm, saw, drill, dried food treats

Directions:
- Cut the PVC into three lengths each about 20cm long
- Drill fairly large holes (big enough for items such as seeds or nuts to pass through) along the length of each piece of PVC
- Place the cap one end of each piece
- Fill each piece of PVC with dried treats such as seeds, small nuts and raisins and then fit the free ends into the t-joint

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:
The gibbon will need to manipulate the object until the treats fall out the drill holes. This activity is very tricky for the gibbons as most are not strong enough to pull the device apart to liberate the treats so they must spend a long time manipulating the object. This activity is a great mind puzzle and keeps the gibbons occupied and engaged with their environment for a long period of time.
Hessian-mâché parcels

Enrichment for: Orangutan, macaque, gibbons

Construction time: 30 minutes per sack

Materials: Hessian sack, flour, water, needle, string, seeds and nuts

Directions:

• Cut the hessian sack into squares about 20cm²
• Fold the hessian over itself and sew up two sides
• Fill the parcel with a small amount of seeds and nuts
• Sew up the last side
• Mix up a flour and water solution
• Add a drop of fragrant food flavouring to the solution
• Dip the parcel in the mâché solution
• Leave the parcel to dry in the sun until the flour solution hardens

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

This activity presents food in a novel way and is more challenging than simply sewing the bags up. It also adds a scent enrichment component if novel food flavouring scents are added to the flour solution. In the wild, orangutan hold leaves in their mouths and suck the moisture out of them. In captivity they can often be observed using materials like hessian to soak up water to then suck the moisture out of, so flavouring the hessian will encourage this natural behaviour.
Banana sucker/ log surprise

Enrichment for: Sun bears, orangutan, macaques

Construction time: 1 hour

**Materials:** Banana sucker or log, hessian sack, string, needles, saw, drill, honey, dog biscuits, peanut butter, dried fruit and nuts.

**Directions:**

- Chop a banana sucker into sections roughly 20cm long
- Drill about 6 holes around the circumference and down the middle. The holes should be of different depths but should not go all the way through
- Drizzle honey down the holes and then plug the holes with dried fruit, nuts or dog biscuits
- Place the banana sucker in the bottom corner of a hessian bag and sew it tightly into the corner of the bag
- Flip the bag over itself and place a small amount of treats (i.e. 3 or 4 nuts or pieces of dried fruit or a small smear of jam or peanut butter) or some chopped up fruit in this layer.
- Sew this layer off as you did the first.
- Repeat until you can no longer fold the bag over itself. At this stage sew the last layer together.

**Variation:**

You can cut a log into the same lengths and use it in place of the banana sucker. The log will be more physically challenging for to tear open. However, the banana suckers are very porous so most animals will spend a long time sucking on these to extract the honey which has seeped all the way through so both materials have their own advantages. The log or banana sucker can be presented without a sack-parcel too.
Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

Orangutan: The aim of this exercise is to present their food in an interesting way that encourages perseverance to obtain high quality food items, mimicking the fact that high quality food does not come easily in the wild. Every orangutan has their own unique method for opening these sacks, which shows that they all employ their own unique problem solving skills. Some orangutan will use sticks to fish into the holes in the logs. Most orangutan will suck on the banana sucker for some time. This is a natural behaviour; in the wild orangutan get a lot of their fluid intake from sucking the moisture out of foliage.

Sun bear: these sacks stimulate the bear’s strong sense of smell so that they are motivated to open them without being able to actually see what’s inside. Their strong teeth and claws are used to rip into the sacks as they might do to a log or a termite nest in the wild. This activity keeps them occupied for a long time because even once the sack is open they must then tear into the log or extract all the honey from the banana sucker. Like the orangutan the bears love to wrestle with and sleep with their sacks after they’ve finished eating what’s inside them.

Macaques: This activity is very challenging for the macaques and keeps them engaged for a long time as it is challenging for them to tear into the hessian. However, macaques are very food motivated so they are unlikely to give up until they have liberated the treats. An extra challenge can be added by hanging the sack from the ceiling of the enclosure.
Bamboo Honey Tubes

Enrichment for: Sun bears, macaques

Construction time: 15 minutes per item

Materials:
• Saw, bamboo, honey, leaves, string

Directions:
• Using a saw cut bamboo into sections so that one end is open and the other solid
• Drill several small holes in the solid end and two larger holes in the open end
• Fill the tubes with leaves or vines and thread rope through the two larger holes
• Suspend the bamboo from the ceiling of the cage or under platforms and fill with honey

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

Hanging these devices up high encourages the animals to climb. It also requires perseverance and strength as the honey drips out slowly so they will need to stay up high whilst the honey drips out. Alternatively the bears may rip the bamboo down and pull it open, which also requires the use of their incredibly strong arms and claws.
Bamboo Puzzle Feeders

Enrichment for species: macaques, gibbons

Construction time: 40 minutes per tube

Materials:

- Bamboo, saw, drill, food items, nuts seeds, meal worms, string

Directions:

- Cut bamboo into sections so there is an open end and a solid end
- Using a jigsaw cut two or three horizontal slots along the length of the bamboo. The cut should go half way around the girth of the bamboo and be about 1cm deep.
- Using scrap pieces of bamboo cut sections which can be slid into the slots to create separate compartments.
- Fill the bottom layer with treats, slide the piece of bamboo in to separate that compartment and then fill the next layer and so on until there are at least three layers.
- Drill two holes in the top of the bamboo and thread string through
- Use the string to suspend the bamboo from the ceiling of night den or on the outside of the enclosure.

Natural behaviours encouraged:

Hanging these devices up high encourages the animals to climb and thus promotes physical activity in order to obtain a high-energy food reward. This task requires a high degree of dexterity and problem solving and therefore stimulates the animal mentally. This task will keep the animal interested in and engaged with their food item for a long time, thus replicating the time a wild primate would spend foraging for and prizing open difficult food items such as some fruits nuts and seeds.
All year ‘round Christmas stockings

Enrichment for: macaques, orangutan, sun bears, clouded leopard

Construction time: 30 minutes per sock

Materials: clean or new long socks such as ski socks or rugby socks, food treats, hessian or other fabric, browse, jam or honey

Directions:
- Wrap small amounts of food in tiny hessian or fabric parcels. These should be tied with twine tightly at the top so they make Christmas pudding shaped parcels.
- Start to fill the sock with these tiny parcels.
- Also fill the sock with browse that is smeared with treats such as jam and peanut butter.
- When the sock is about three quarters full, stitch or tie it closed.
- Either dissolve a stock cube or two table spoons of honey or jam in two litres of water and bring to the boil.
- Take the water off the heat and then submerge the socks in the flavoured water. Leave them sitting for at least half an hour so they absorb the flavor.
- You can either wait until they cool down sufficiently and then feed these treats out or freeze them. Do not refreeze if meat has been used.
- The socks can be tied onto the walls or roof of the night den or to structures in the enclosure.

Variation: for clouded leopards do not make parcels, simply place interesting scents of the leaves and perhaps sprinkle in a few cat biscuits or similar into the socks.
Natural behaviours encouraged:
This activity presents food in a novel way. Tearing the socks down will be the first challenge. The animal will then need to work their way through the contents, thus holding their interest and increasing the time spent engaged in foraging. Most of the animals will also suck on the socks to liberate the flavor. In the case of orangutan, this encourages natural behavior as they chew and suck on leaves in the wild in order to extract moisture. The orangutan and monkeys may also play with the sock once the food has been extracted.
Boomer Ball

Enrichment for: orangutan, sun bears, macaque, clouded leopard

Construction time: 5 minutes per ball

Materials: boomer ball and food treats

Directions:

For sun bears and orangutan:

- Place a small amount of dry food such as dried fruit and nuts or sunflower seeds or drizzle honey into the hole in the ball
- The ball can then be hung from the ceiling of the night den, in a tree, or simply put in the enclosure.

For clouded leopard

- Place a small handful of cat biscuits in the ball
- Using a length of rope approximately 1 metre long tie the ball to the ceiling or underneath any platforms that may be present. Where possible it is great to substitute rope for a bungee cord or the inner tube of bicycle tyre.
Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

Sun bears
In the wild sun bears are opportunistic feeders and have a number of varied adaptations that allow them to exploit a variety of food sources. For example bears have very dexterous paws and long tongues for ripping open rotten logs or termite nests and then licking the crevices to remove the insects inside. The boomer ball makes use of both their dexterity and long tongues.

Orangutan
Orangutan are extremely intelligent and excellent problem solvers and this activity encourages their creative thinking. The orangutan can be seen using twigs to get items out of the ball, shaking it and hitting it onto a flat surface in order to retrieve their high energy treat.

Clouded leopard
In the wild leopards and other cats stalk prey. By filling the ball with highly scented treats that are hidden from view inside the ball the sense of smell is engaged, and by tying the ball to the roof natural movement of a prey item is simulated.

Health and safety: do not use any wet food items or food items which will become soggy if they get wet. These items will get stuck inside the ball and become fetid thus presenting a hygiene hazard to the animal.
Compartmented Hessian sack

Enrichment for: orangutan, macaques, gibbons

Construction time: 40 minutes per sack

Materials:

- Hessian sack, needles, string, leaves, saw dust, newspaper, dried fruits and nuts, jam, honey peanut butter

Directions:

- Cut hessian into squares roughly 30cm x 30cm
- Sew up three sides
- Sew two lines up the middle of the sack from one closed end to the open end
- Stuff saw dust or leaves into all three compartments. You can smear jam or peanut butter on the leaves or wrap treats in the leaves and in the newspaper and add those little parcel into the compartments
- Sew across the sack so that there are now 6 compartments
- Stuff the remaining three compartments with treats
- Sew right along the top. You should now have 6 separate compartments with different treats and substrate in each

Health and safety:

Only add dried fruit or nuts to the sawdust and newspaper, don’t add sticky items such as jam as you do not want to encourage the animal to ingest the saw dust or paper.

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

This activity requires patience and perseverance to extract all the intricately wrapped or hidden treats in each compartment. It also keeps the animal stimulated as each compartment will have a different treat inside it. The sawdust is great for hiding items such as dried nuts or raisins whereas the browse compartments can be smeared with jam or peanut butter.
Egg Tray Treats

Enrichment for: gibbons, macaques, sun bears

Construction time: 5 minutes

Materials: empty egg cartons, needles, string, popcorn, peanut butter, seeds, raisins.

Directions:
- Smear two egg cartons with peanut butter
- Place a mixture of popcorn, seeds and raisins in one egg carton
- Place the other egg carton on top and sew the two together
- Tie to the outside of the cage or to the ceiling

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

This is an interesting and novel way to present food items. Furthermore by tying the item up high the animal is encouraged to move about and engage with their environment in order to obtain the food reward.
‘Fishing’

Enrichment for: Orangutan

Construction time: 10 minutes per animal

Directions:

- Using broad leaves or material, wrap small amounts of food up and then tie them into small parcels.
  - Where possible the orangutan’s normal diet can be incorporated into this enrichment exercise in order to manage their weight and general health. However treats such as jam, peanut butter and dried fruits can also be used in moderation.
- Find sticks that will be long enough for the orangutan to fish with but not so long or strong that they can damage their enclosure with. Present orangs with several leafy twigs so that they can choose and modify the most suitable “tool”
- Place the parcels on the floor just out of the reach of the orangutan and then give them the sticks so that they can use these to “fish” for the items

Variation:

To vary this exercise you can create the opportunity for the orangutan to fish items out of the water; to do so:

- Place a large tub of water in front of the orangutan’s enclosure. The tub should have a hole cut in one side where you can place a hose, put this side of the tub furthest away from the cage. Drill several drainage holes to prevent overflow.
• Place food items and parcels in the water.
• Turn the hose on at a low pressure to create a whirlpool effect.
• Give the orangutan a stick to fish with.

Natural behaviours encouraged:
In the wild orangutan have to travel across vast areas to search for food and have extremely good spatial memory for where to find various food items. Their ability to find food not only relies on this spatial memory but also their ability to plan into the future and estimate when various trees will be fruiting so that they can move between areas accordingly. In captivity, orangutan do not need to use this incredible cognitive adaptation so it is important to provide them with enrichment that will challenge them mentally as well as physically. The aim of this exercise is to present their food in an interesting way that encourages perseverance to obtain high quality food items, mimicking the fact that high quality food does not come easily in the wild. This exercise engages the orangutan both cognitively, in that it requires them to manipulate the “fishing tool”, and physically as it requires the persistent use of their fine motor skills. An additional benefit to this exercise is that it removes the immediate relationship between humans as “food providers”.

Health and safety:
• The orangutan must be supervised at all times when engaged with this enrichment
• Adequate sticks must be selected with care to ensure the orangutan are not given strong tools with which they could damage their enclosures, or themselves
Hessian knots

Enrichment for: Sun bears, orangutan, macaques, gibbons

Construction time: 5 minutes per knot

Materials:
- Hessian, leaves, jam, peanut butter, honey, seeds, raisins or nuts, string

Directions:
- Cut hessian into squares (approx. 30cm²)
- Cut the squares diagonally to create triangles
- Smear some jam or peanut butter in the corner of the triangle
- Sprinkle nuts or seeds on top
- Starting at one corner roll the parcel tightly then bring the ends together and either knot or tie together with string

Natural behaviours encouraged or benefits of this enrichment:

For the sun bears, orangutan, gibbons and macaques this is a challenging way to present a treat item they must climb to retrieve and which will then require manipulation in order to access. This enrichment item presents the felids with their food in a novel way and if it is hung from the ceiling it may elicit natural stalking and pouncing behaviours as it swings and moves dynamically as a live prey item would (for the felids it is particularly good enrichment if the parcel can be attached to the ceiling with a bungee type cord so that they must pin the item down and stop it from pinging away from them).
Hose treats

Enrichment for: Macaques, gibbons

Construction time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Garden hose, sharp scissors, food items e.g. fruit nuts seeds dog biscuits, soft leaves or vine

Directions:

- Cut the hose into 30cm lengths
- Fill hose with food treats
- Smear peanut butter or jam on the vines and then plug each end of the hose with vines.

Variation: the hose can be filled with porridge or mashed durian and then frozen.

Natural behaviours encouraged:

This activity presents food in a novel, challenging way. The macaques tend to use their strength to bite through the hose to liberate the treats whereas the gibbons tend to use their long fingers to fish the treats out.
Kongs

Enrichment for species: macaques, gibbons, orangutan, sun bears

Construction time: 10 minutes per animal

Directions:
For macaques, orangutan and sun bears:
- Use a piece of food such as a segment of banana to block the small hole of the Kong. Pack porridge inside until the Kong is completely full.
  Making the porridge: Make the porridge as usual but you may then mix honey, peanut butter, jam, mashed banana or dried fruit in as well.
- Put the Kongs in the freezer.
- When the contents are frozen throw them on top of the cages or hang them inside.

For gibbons:
- Smear peanut butter, jam, porridge, or rice inside the Kong.
- The Kongs can then be thrown on top of their cage or hung from the ceiling inside their cage.
- The gibbons are less persistent and not as strong as other animals, hence freezing the contents is a bit to tricky for the gibbons.

Natural/adaptive behaviours encouraged:

Macaques, orangutan and gibbons: using the Kongs presents the food in a more interesting way which requires manipulation of an object in order to obtain the food, thus simulating the way that they might have to manipulate certain wild fruits, nuts or seeds that are difficult to open. By drawing out the time they spend actively engaged in obtaining their food the animals move towards a more natural energy budget and away from the spending a disproportionate amount of time not engaged with any activity.

Bears: The bears have extremely long tongues and long sharp claws, both of which are specialised adaptations that they make use of in the wild when foraging. The Kongs simulate items like termite nests and rotten logs in that the bear must use its dexterity and sharp claws to prize the item open and then their tongues to scoop out the contents.

By freezing the contents we add an extra degree of difficulty to the challenge and hence increase the time spent engaged in the activity. Hanging the Kongs adds a physical component to the task and encourages the animal to move around and climb in their enclosure in addition they will have to use strength or skill or both to pull the Kong down.