

Clues for Giving Enrichment

The clues here are just suggestions, not rules!

- Before you give enrichment, the apes must generally be saturated and therefore choosy. Otherwise they eat everything you give them (including plastic, jute, etc.), which is not good for them. This means you must accustom the apes to normal feedings where they can eat enough, so they start to be choosy with the assortment of food given at enrichment

- Plastic bottles

- You can only use plastic bottles when you can ensure that the apes do not any pieces of plastic!!!
- Before you give the apes bottles, you must take the cap & snap ring off
- You can fill bottles with many things including tea; tea with yoghurt; clean water; or pellets
- In general, you can put any kind of food in bottles if it is mashed (food can be a little bit bigger than the opening of the bottle)
- *When you give the apes plastic bottles for the first time watch the apes very closely to see if they eat pieces of plastic. When this happens, you can't give them plastic bottles anymore!!*

- Jute

- When you use jute make sure the apes don't eat too much of it or that they try to hang themselves with too long fibers – fibers must be thin and should tear easily
- Instead of jute you can also use pullovers, old clothes or towels – but jeans are NOT useable!
- Small pieces of cloth are preferable since the apes (especially young ones) can strangle themselves with larger pieces

- Paper

- Apes can eat it, but it must be chlorine free, unbleached & unprinted. This means NO newspaper!
- You can use (for example) packing paper
- In general you must ensure that the apes don't eat too much of the paper because it is bad for them. If they do eat a lot of paper, reduce the amount of paper you use

- Food

- All foodstuff should not have preservatives
- Animal protein is essential for the apes like eggs, yoghurt or boiled meat (good would be cow, chicken, turkey hen or rabbit – NO pork, because it's too fat), but it's enough when you give every chimpanzee meat once per week (every portion as big as an egg only!!)

- Every kind of fruits or vegetables, which you feed to the apes, shouldn't grow near the street
- Take off the paring of squirted fruit or vegetable or put it for 15-20 min in hot water (after the water bath wash it up over again with cold water) & when you feed it, take care that, when the apes get the trots, you have to take off the paring
- Don't give them chocolate or other sweet stuff
- You can administer vitamin fizzy tablets (e.g. tea as an resolvent), but not too much – it's notionally enough when you give every chimpanzee one tablet within 2-4 weeks
- Only when the chimpanzees have the trots longer than for 3 days & you don't know the case then you should give them special food – good against the trots are:
 - acorn
 - zwieback
 - stuffing fruit like banana or apple – hackle them & lay them for half an hour in the sun or on the heater before you feed the apes with this fruits
 - you can give dietary feeding stuff like carrots, boiled potatoes, kohlrabi or celeriac in sufficient quantities, too
 - when the apes have the trots it's better to give them tea instead of water
 - don't feed the apes with too juicy fruits (e.g. melon, orange, grapes, onion...), when they have the trots

We want to inform you over again, that these clues are based upon field reports, which were done with chimpanzees, which were born in captivity, so that it's very advisable to look at the apes every time when you feed them, especially when they get jute or cloth!!