

Further & Higher Education

ANIMAL ENRICHMENT



General points about this talk:

Talks generally last 30-40 minutes and take place out in the Park in all weathers; please ensure students wear suitable clothes for the conditions.

Talks are generally led by the keepers and may vary between different staff members. We will adapt this talk according to the age of students.

We endeavour to keep group sizes below 20 students.

What we will cover in the talk:

Enrichment can be used in captivity to improve the welfare of the animals and keep them entertained. This can be by reducing abnormal behaviours and encouraging more natural behaviours. Enrichment comes in many forms and is dependent on the animal it is intended for and can range from providing tongue puzzles to giraffes to providing tamarins with bunches of lavender.

In our animal enrichment talk we will take a look at some different animals we have here at the park and the types of enrichment they are provided with. We will look at how different animals are provided with different enrichment that best suits them as well as how often the animals are provided with this and how this is decided.

Animals we may include:

We cannot guarantee which animals you will see during your talk but you will visit at least four animals which may include some of the following:

Slender-tailed meerkat	Wolverine
Asian short-clawed otter	Giant hornbill
Common squirrel monkey	Asiatic lion
Brazilian Tapir	Bactrian camel
Anteater	Giraffe
Weaver birds	Blue & gold macaw



Areas of the City and Guilds Animal Care Specification that this talk addresses:

Level 2

Unit 213 Introduction to Caring for Zoo Animals

Outcome 2 – Know the housing requirements and handling equipment necessary for zoo animal species:

- Enrichment features - Tongue puzzles (giraffe), food concealment in substrate or sacking, use of meat poles, inclusion of browse, natural processes

Level 3

Unit 318 Understand the Principles of Zoological Animal Health and Husbandry

Outcome 1 – Understand the housing and accommodation requirements of zoo animals:

- Features of the natural environment and enrichment - Use of plants, trees (plus browse), water features (ponds and running water), shelter (rocks, caves, canopies, tunnels), platforms, raised areas, ropes, frames, swings, enrichment provided through nutrition

Outcome 3 – Understand the importance of health and welfare of zoo animals:

- Activities which enhance the welfare – enrichment, socialisation and group structures, health monitoring and assessment, environmental assessment and appropriate enclosure design

Outcome 4 – Understand the essential features of nutrition and feeding of zoo animals:

- Enrichment – hiding/disguising food, tongue puzzles, food scent trails, scatter feeding and provision of browse

