

SHAPE-Africa

Scientific, Holistic Approach to Positive Enrichment



Branch of : ^{THE} SHAPE OF ENRICHMENT

2rd Edition

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Highlights :

Valerie Hares visit to South Africa
PAAZAB endorses SHAPE-Africa
SHAPE to participate in AKAA@UWEC

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Fun Facts & Quiz

Here is last months answer to the question:
The Asiatic elephant has the longest pregnancy of all animals, but how long is it?

The answer was:
d. 20 to 22 months on average.
Did you know that the first environmental enrichment study was conducted in the Edinburgh zoo by a student Charles Watson from the University of Edinburgh in 1973.

Which of the following primates are true grazers like the horse and cow?

Hamadryas
gibbon
gelada
chimpanzee

Hi Readers

It is with great pleasure that I after a long silence again bring you a newsletter with interesting stories. SHAPE-Africa has certainly taken off with a view to conquer and with it the promise of exciting and interactive experiences. In 2009 SHAPE-Africa and The Shape of Enrichment will be participating in the next up and coming Animal Keepers Association of Africa (AKAA) workshop up in Uganda.

AKAA@UWEC will be with SHAPE-Africa combining forces to enable the region to experience not only the importance of animal enrichment, which is a vital component of animal welfare, but also to the basics and science behind husbandry. Watch this space for further information as to the workshop.

Vice-Chair SHAPE-Africa
Robynn Ingle-Möller



It was a magical sugar-filled childhood on the island. Every day Timmy would grab his trusty spoon and go out hunting Meringue-Outangs.

' The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.'
William Arthur Ward

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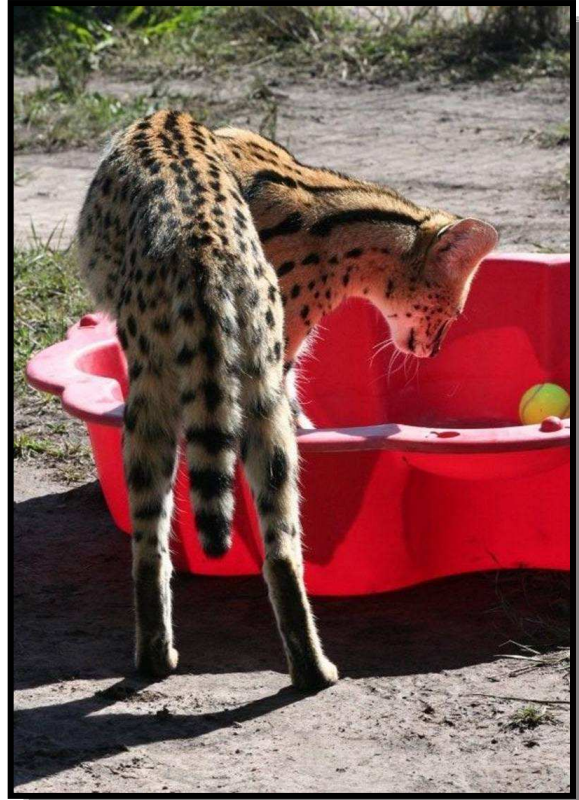
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Enrichment stories from around Africa

Tenikwa Wildlife Awareness Centre

at Plettenberg Bay hosted the Western Cape Shape of Enrichment Workshop. 27 enthusiastic delegates from all over the Western Cape arrived on 8th September to be inspired by Valerie Hare. With delegates as diverse as keepers in the traditional sense of the word, to Cape Nature officials, Plett Seabird Rescue staff and the SPCA, the course was set to be somewhat unusual. Valerie set challenging objectives for the various teams, and said from the outset that it was unlikely that all objectives would be met. Generally on a workshop of this nature, one or two of the species are expected to be un-cooperative, and at Tenikwa, the delegates worked primarily with cats (and we all know that cats only do what they want, when they want, if they want!).



mmmm..... interesting !!!!!

One of the advantages of having delegates from all walks of life is that they tend to think out of the box, so some very un-stereotypical enrichment ideas were produced. One of the challenges was to get Earl and Edwina, the Marabou Storks to eat by themselves. And another was to get Chester the rotund Cheetah to do a little more than just lie there and purr. Duma and Zulu, the Cheetah Cubs were to work for their food, and for the Serval and Caracal Teams, well, it was carte blanche to get them to utilize their enclosure more. The Bird Team (who working with Blue Cranes and the Marabous) excelled themselves. They built a hollow bamboo feeder to dangle food in, and encourage the birds to peck at it. There was an anxious moment when one of the delegates wanted to dangle a live rat in the feeder, and the SPCA delegates went pale; the team were convinced to use beef stroganoff strips instead. Earl actually ate one strip and 3 mealworms by himself – the first time since he came to Tenikwa some two years ago!

'Courage comes from wanting to do it well. Security comes from knowing you can do it well.

Confidence comes from having done it well.' Unknown

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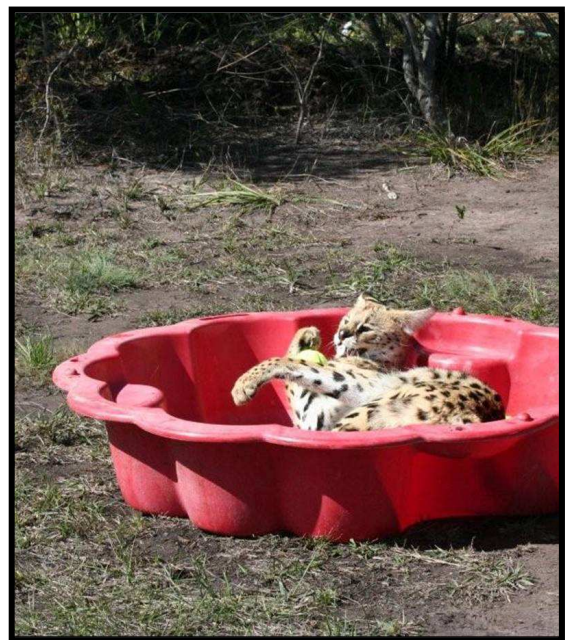
What you looking at ??????

Unusual and unexpected results occurred during the placement and observation of the items in the Serval Camp. In fact, Valerie said that she thought she had seen everything, until Jasper, one of the serval, was playing happily in a plastic pond with some tennis balls. One ball bounced out, and he duly hopped out of the pond, picked up the tennis ball in his mouth, plonked it back in the pond, and hopped back in to continue playing!!! We all stood around in disbelief at what we had just witnessed.

Of course, there were lessons to be learnt. In the African Wild Cats, who just “sleep all day”, feathery toys were put in front of the nose of the female. She just continued to sleep, until her animal keeper pointed out that she was blind in the left eye. By moving the item to the right and into her vision, she suddenly opened her eyes, and played with the feathers for over 2 minutes.

Now this is the life – Oo ye!

The three days passed very quickly, and soon it was time to say farewell to everyone and disperse. A very big thank you to Valerie and Kylise for the workshop and to SHAPE-Africa. We all enjoyed it tremendously and learnt a lot



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News FLASH

1. PAAZAB endorses SHAPE-Africa

In May this year, the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria endorsed SHAPE-Africa as an organization that can contribute greatly to animal husbandry through environmental enrichment.



2. SHAPE- Africa and AKA @UWEC 2009

Keep an eye open. But we will be planning to hold a workshop at the Ugandan Wildlife Education Center in May next year.

Workshops from game capture to hygiene will be discussed, but above all an enrichment workshop will be hosted by SHAPE-Africa

The first announcement will be sent out within November 2008.
Start saving money now !



'It is every mans obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes of it.' *Albert Einstein*



action Research for Professional Development

What is action research?"

Action research is a term which refers to a practical way of looking at your own work to check that it is as you would like it to be. Because action research is done by you, the practitioner, it is often referred to as practitioner based research; and because it involves you thinking about and reflecting on your work, it can also be called a form of self-reflective practice.

The idea of self reflection is central. In traditional forms of research – empirical research – researchers do research on other people. In action research, researchers do research on themselves. Empirical researchers enquire into other people's lives, action researchers enquire into their own. Action research is an enquiry conducted by the self into the self. You, a practitioner, think about your own life and work, and this involves you asking yourself why you do the things that you do, and why you are the way that you are. When you produce your research report, it shows how you have carried out a systematic investigation into your own behaviour, and the reasons for that behaviour.

The report shows the process you have gone through in order to achieve a better understanding of yourself, so that you can continue developing yourself and your work. Action research is open ended. It does not begin with a fixed hypothesis. It begins with an idea that you develop. The research process is the developmental process of following through the idea, seeing how it goes, and continually checking whether it is in line with what you wish to happen. Seen in this way, action research is a form of self evaluation. It is used widely in professional contexts such as appraisal, mentoring and self assessment.

A useful way to think about action research is that it is a strategy to help you live in a way that you feel is a good way. It helps you live out the things you believe in, and it enables you to give good reasons every step of the way."

Author Jean McNiff. Jeanmcniff.com

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Construction Ideas

Hammocks for monkeys ...

If you can weave a basket, you can weave a hammock. Hammocks are great enrichment for primates some carnivores and even for bears. Take rope or even better FIRE HOSE and weave a nice sized square.

To end them off you simply drill holes (x2 each) and loop them around so that they can then be bolted together with gutter bolts. Remember to use washers as the monkeys will try to pull them out. Safety is paramount so look out for sharp edges and large holes where limbs can get stuck



'Motivation gets you going and habit gets you there. Make motivation a habit and you will get there more quickly and have more fun on the trip.' Zig Ziglar

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Monthly Quote

A pet's plea:

“Feed me clean food that I may stay well, to romp and play and do you bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with me life, should your life be in danger”

author unknown

(taken from the book –
Platzhonds Pets Pointers)



Endorsements & contact us :

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‘You can get everything you want in life if you just help enough other people get what they want.’ ZigZiglar