



SHAPE REGIONAL SEE NEWSPAPER

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EXPERIMENTAL NUMBER

The originally idea

The idea came when I was selected, at IPS Pre-Congress Training Program in 2008 last year. The program lasted a week, in which we learned about the theory of enrichment, then about behavioral husbandry; this was presented for 16 candidates who were selected from all around the World.

After the course we all saw the world very differently; through the enrichment theory. We all got to know a little about enrichment, but the expression "Behavioral husbandry" was totally new. The first week was dedicated to the class as such, held at the educational centre of the Edinburgh Zoo. During the class, we had the opportunity of a detailed visit of the five pavilions of primates, where we could notice live the newly learned theories.

The second part of this trip consisted of the IPS (International Primatological Society) Congress. Numerous academic papers were presented abreast in nine halls, so one had to select which presentations to attend.

At the end of the congress, Dr. Vicky Melfi,

the organizer of the workshop, presented our activity.

After the course I made a plan, because I wanted to share all the information I had learned with my colleagues at Tirgu-Mures Zoo and also with my colleagues in other Romanian Zoos.



The group of the lecturers and delegates from all over the World at IPS Pre-Congress Training

I like to make my projects preferring smaller steps, but these must be very well elaborated and based on solid steps. That's why I started with writing two article in "Lynx" (Romanian independent zoo e-newspaper).

Then I prepared a Power Point presentation about EE to the keepers at my zoo, who understood very quickly the meaning and the importance of enrichment. The "Big presentation" to my colleagues in other Romanian Zoos, was at one of the Quarterly Conference of the Roma-

nian Zoo Federation. Here I presented also my "National enrichment project" (second step).

At Tirgu-Mures Zoo we made a plan about how we could enrich our animals, and have been educating our visitors about the importance of enrichment and also explaining how it works. In the future I hope I can help us improve the frequency of enrichment use in Romanian zoos.

I will propose at the next Federation meeting, that we create an Enrichment Committee, with a large database, because not all zoos have information available to them, and do not have specialists.

Meanwhile, at Enrichment Conference in Paignton, UK, this committee idea became Shape Regional Romania, and at the EAZA Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, following Dana Canari's idea, this Shape was extending to Shape Regional South-East Europe.

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IPS= International Primatological Society

First steps...

FIRST STEPS:

1. Creating an e-mailing group:
 - *Yahoo Groups for better, clean and transparent communication*
 - *shape-see@yahoogroups.com*
2. Members' list
Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia,
3. Committee (min. 3 members from different countries)
4. Elaborating a "Business plan"
 - *Specific goals*
 - *Working methods*
 - *Services*
 - *Partnerships*
 - *Financial plan*
 - *Logo*

FOLLOWING STEPS:

5. Editing e-Newspaper
In pdf. format – to be easy accessible
6. Database on "shape-see" - Yahoo Group
Using the webpage for storing data
7. Support and collaboration with "The Shape of Enrichment"
Supply enrichment articles to "The Shape of Enrichment"
8. Helping each other to enriching our animals
9. Organising Regional Conference

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Photo: Zoo Tirgu-Mures

Hanging up fruits and vegetables, force our animals to climb up to reach the food.

Let's do things easily, understandable for everyone, because in this way our animals will get more and useful enrichments!

Four countries at start

So far we have 13 members representing 5 zoos (Tirgu-Mures, Brasov, Sibiu, Galati, Turda, Bursa, Skopje and Zagreb), from four countries (Romania, Turkey, Macedonia and Croatia) and one person representing the "Lynx", the Romanian independent

newspaper. and four our honor the "The Shape of Enrichment" is present, by Valery Hare.

As members we should promote our group in our countries, to enlarge our member number and not just so we can be able to say that we are "big", but to be

able to share more and more information about environmental enrichment among each other.

I am not an enrichment expert, but I would like to help to spread the seeds of enrichment in the region where is not really knows this activity. KA

Shape SEE Regional was presented

The Romanian Zoo and Aquarium Federation's quarterly meeting was held at Timisoara Zoo on the 22-23rd of October, 2009. In the program were also included the presentations of the new Shape Regional

South and East Europe. It would be a great opportunity to speak about enrichment and also about how we would like to establish this totally new "shape" in Romania and also in the neighboring countries.

Unfortunately Tirgu-Mures Zoo was not present at this meeting, so for objective rea-

son it was not presented the "beginning" for our Romanian colleagues. Anyway the main first steps were written on the Shape SEE's mailing group, and also it is written in this experimental issue.

I hope that we will help each other, to enrich our animals' lives. KA

Timisoara Zoo use congs for enriching the monkeys days.



Photo: Zoo Timisoara

Message to members of the SHAPE-SEE Group.

Dear Colleagues,

I would just like to say a few words on communication within the group.

We have a wonderful opportunity to form a very successful SHAPE REGIONAL in an area where it is badly needed and will be of great benefit to not only the group members institutions but will assist those institutions which are striving to come up to Modern Zoo Standards.

The correct enrichment program is essential to captive animal welfare and even the most simple of items can sometimes improve your animals' welfare dramatically.

The success of SHAPE-SEE relies on regular communication, between the members and other interested parties.

If you like something – let others know – if you don't like something then say so – if you have been asked for something or some information then please acknowledge the request, especially if you cannot do it straight away. We live in a world with instant communication at our fingertips and it can take just a matter of seconds to acknowledge something by Instant Messenger or by Email for that matter.

So please use the means available and keep up to date and pass on your knowledge.

This is not an easy group to establish so let us all please help András by communicating, and we will all reap the benefits and your animals will thank you – even if they can't tell you.

Regards Mal Hyet - „Lynx”

Shape SEE!...



*We are like small children,
but we should make our first steps together,
in this way will be more easy...*

Easy way to keep contact?

First of all I would like to see the communication working smoothly and without problems! That's why I suggest the **“Yahoo Groups”**.

This will be an open group, where we can communicate easily and also upload useful materials and a lot of pictures. I choose this way to keep in contact, because it's easy to use, it's free and the most importantly it's transparent, so all the mails and all materials can get to all the members at the same time.

Of course we will accept everyone who works in zoos, with captive animals or in enrichment field, but also who is interested in enrichment and wants to help us to enrich our animals' life.

I would like to mention, that there is another group strictly connected with enrichment called

“environmental enrichment” which is the UK Environmental Enrichment Groups' mailing list.

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YAHOO! GROUPS

Halloween + enrichment

In this year Zoo Tirgu-Mures as usual combined its enrichment program with its educational programs. As we well know at the beginning of November as in the United States and all around the World, Halloween is celebrated in Romania as well. Also everyone knows that at this time of the year children like to make Jack's lamps. That's the reason why we made some interesting pumpkin-faces, but not for the children, but for our animals. Anyway the squash is a good food for zoo animals, but of course only for herbivores.

At this time not only the herbivores could enjoy the orange-faces, but the felines too, which played with the unusual balls. First every animal was very curious, but after a while they realized that there is no danger around the round faces, and they started to play.

These items we could classify as food based enrichment, in this case the pumpkin is filled with different food, but we also use it as a toy (there were not filled). The animals appreciated it this way as well, they played with the Jack's lamp till they destroyed it or till they just ate it. And we learned something trying this! As we are beginners in enrichment, we gave to the monkeys the enrichment together with food, and we found out that they were not really interested in it. Of course this is obvious, but we were very curious to see our animals' reaction.



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I would like to say thank you to Emőke Városi for reviewing the articles.



Shape Regional South & East Europe

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