



IdeaBox- Animal Welfare Expertise (AWE) Cetacean Enrichment Catalogue

Sharing enrichment ideas to enhance cetacean welfare in captivity

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CONCEPT

AWE's IdeaBox is a catalogue of enrichment ideas for cetaceans with accompanying details on how to source, design and build them.



ALL ENRICHMENT?

Only innovative and stimulating items are called for in AWE's IdeaBox. Therefore, while we certainly understand balls and hoops can be enriching for cetaceans, we're only looking for devices that are more complex e.g. several items joined together to elicit cognitive challenges, or devices leading to multi-step behaviours. We believe these are the ideas that need sharing!



OPEN ACCESS

For all those who contribute an enrichment idea, the catalogue will be free of charge. This also means that once you submit your idea and its details, you should be aware that it may be shared.



HOW TO SUBMIT

Fill out the document at www.animalwelfareexpertise.com/ideabox and send back to us, then wait for approval (a check that nobody has already submitted the idea, and that there is enough evidence to show the item proposed can be made and used by the animals in the described fashion).



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Idea submission

We're not being snobby with the AWE IdeaBox but we do want to make sure that we encourage innovative and stimulating devices for the dolphins, shown to elicit diverse and interactive behaviours. We want to provide a platform for idea sharing of cognitively challenging and engaging enrichment.

We particularly encourage enrichment that stimulates foraging behaviours: this can be a vital tool in increasing time taken to acquire food and reducing abnormal behaviours.



Not looking for...

- Simple objects with no modifications e.g. a plastic ball
- Enrichment that involves trainer or guest interactions only
- Training-only enrichment: needs to be an item or environmental change involved, but training can be used to desensitise
- Foraging enrichment that doesn't stimulate a multi-step process to gain the reward e.g. fish laid on top of a float



Yes please!

- Inventive ways of modifying and combining items e.g. many, perforated plastic balls tied together with fish inside
- Autonomous enrichment: where the animal has control over object e.g. ice dispenser
- Enrichment that sustains the animals' interest over time, perhaps by being modifiable or able to increase in complexity
- Task-based enrichment, where the animals have to complete multiple steps to get a reward e.g. a maze

Please be aware that any personal details you give us may be shared with other IdeaBox users, and that any information, photos or videos you submit in the form may be published in the public domain.

Thanks very much!