



Apr 17th, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

## Intervention Across the Zoo Day: Environmental Enrichment in Malaysian Sun Bears

Erin Milligan  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

James D. Dougan, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Milligan, Erin and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, James D., "Intervention Across the Zoo Day: Environmental Enrichment in Malaysian Sun Bears" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 15.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/posters2/15>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P30

**INTERVENTION ACROSS THE ZOO DAY: ENVIRONMENTAL  
ENRICHMENT IN MALAYSIAN SUN BEARS**

Erin Milligan and James D. Dougan\*  
Department of Psychology, Illinois Wesleyan University

It has become increasingly important to provide enriched environments for captive wild animals. Research suggests that enriched environments may reduce unwanted behavior (i.e., repetitive pacing). The present experiment reports on an ongoing program of environmental enrichment for Malaysian Sun Bears. During baseline sessions, data were collected across the 7-hour zoo day using a set of fourteen behavioral categories. Included in the fourteen categories were several types of repetitive, stereotypical behaviors identified in earlier studies. During intervention sessions, a set of foraging tubes were hidden in the bears enclosure, each containing a variable amount of a food item. The task required the bears to locate and open the tubes before consuming the contents. Previous studies in the zoo environment have shown the foraging tubes to be an effective means of reducing inappropriate behavior. In the present study, tubes were introduced at 2 p.m. in the afternoon, allowing assessment of the affects of using a particular intervention time. This research will lend information on the optimal time for tube placement within the zoo day. The results have implications for the study of captive Sun Bears, as well as for zoo animals in general.