



Apr 12th, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

The Environment Enrichment of Sun Bears

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Jordan, Natalie and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, James, "The Environment Enrichment of Sun Bears" (2003). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 15.

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Poster Presentation P20

THE ENVIRONMENT ENRICHMENT OF SUN BEARS

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The present study studied the effects of environmental enrichment on the stereotypical behavior of zoo animals. Enrichment tubes were given to two Malaysian sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*). The tubes, constructed of PVC pipe, were filled with a mix of peanut butter and popcorn. The bears' behavior was observed for hour sessions each day. The experimental design consisted of 3 phases: baseline, intervention, and baseline recovery. During the baseline phase the researcher recorded the initial stereotypical behavior of the bears for comparison with the other phases with no enrichment tubes. In the intervention phase the peanut butter and popcorn mix was placed in all four foraging tubes. The time the bears spent with each foraging tube and all of the bears' behavior was recorded. Lastly, the baseline recovery phase the baseline recovery phase was simply a return to baseline procedures in which the foraging tubes were again not present and the behaviors of the bears were recorded as in the baseline phase. The results have implications for the enrichment of captive zoo animals..