

CAMELID ENRICHMENT OVERVIEW

Pasado's Safe Haven Camelid Enrichment Program is designed to provide a more varied experience for our llamas and alpacas, making their stay more comfortable and enjoyable. Interacting with these animals in activities that they enjoy can make them happier, less anxious, and more adoptable!

We have put together this binder so volunteers can easily find things to do with our animals, and to identify specific activities that are particularly beneficial for each species, otherwise known as *targeted enrichment*. Pasado's staff will maintain this binder weekly and editing if some of the activities are inappropriate for that particular species/animal. The appropriateness of certain activities for animals can vary due to changes in diet, health, or behavior.

Always ask a staff member prior to beginning any enrichment activity. Review the activities on the enrichment sheet before working with an animal/species. **You will likely need a Caregiver's assistance distributing enrichment to the alpacas!** Some treats can be made for them ahead of time and then distributed by the Caregiver later. Upon completion of your session, **please be sure to write down what you worked on with the animal and leave comments so we can monitor the progress and see what works well for each animal.**

Below are descriptions of the activities you will find in this binder (check each sheet carefully to be sure that these activities are listed, not all activities will be appropriate for all species).

- **Cutting Browse** - There are clippers and gloves located in the shop to cut bough. Please radio for help if you cannot find these items. There is a non-toxic and toxic plant sheet at the front of this binder to help you identify things that should (or shouldn't) be cut down. A lot of areas on property have good boughs to cut, but a caregiver can point you in the right direction if needed. Once you have collected a good pile, you can toss them over the fence for the llamas/alpacas. When done, please return the clippers to the shop and place the gloves in the dirty laundry bin inside the People Barn.
- **Frozen Treats** - There are pre-made frozen treats in the freezer in the enrichment room. This can range from ice cubes, frozen produce, popsicles, and other things. Ice cubes can be given in bowls to the animals but please give the ice cubes slowly so they don't choke. Frozen produce can be broken up and distributed as treats. The SUGAR FREE popsicles are for the animals, and they can/will eat them right off of the stick. Just make sure that you keep the stick! Please call a caregiver before distributing.
- **Making Frozen Treats** - If you are interested in making frozen treats to restock the freezer so we may use them in the future, first check freezer to make sure there is enough space/room. Ziplock bags can be filled with cut up fruits (cut according to guidelines) and some watered-down juice. Seal the bag completely and put it in the freezer. Ice cube trays can be filled with water and a few fruit slices/smaller pieces of fruit and put in the freezer. If there are any other ideas, you have for frozen treats, okay the contents with a caregiver before making.

- **Pinecones** - There may or may not be pinecones already in the enrichment room. If there aren't any you will need to go and find some. Depending on the time of year they should be fairly easy to find. Tie the pinecones to a long string of twine, so they can hang from it! There should be a roll of twine on the enrichment shelf, but if not you can just set the pinecones up on the shelf and staff will put the twine on before giving them to the animals. If there are larger pinecones on the enrichment room shelf you can squash bananas and/or blueberries (watermelon works great too if it's hot!) and push them into the pinecone. Peanut butter is another great option and the alpacas/llamas will have to use their lips to get the yummy treats out!
- **Hol-ee-Roller Balls** - These are usually on the shelf of the enrichment room and you can ask for help if you can't find one. They work best with long leave of lettuce. Break the lettuce leaf off and feed it through the holes in the ball. Place in the paddock/pasture for the animals to work the lettuce out of the ball. When done, return the ball to the enrichment room and clean it as needed.
- **Sensory Board** - We have a board with several locks and items on it for the animals to play with. There are hooks on the back of the board so that it can be hung on a fence. The goal is for the animals to play with the locks and mechanisms for mental stimulation! Ask Ruminant Caregiver to show you how to put it out.
- **Fire Hose Toy** - There is a braided yellow fire hose located in the enrichment room that can be used for many of our animals. You will need help hanging the fire hose on the fence since it is very heavy. Call a caregiver so we can help you hang it. Once the fire hose is up, you can place treats such as lettuce and fruit into the braid for the animals to find.
- **"Find It" with Cones** - Grab the orange cones from the enrichment room and a container of dog cookies or cut up produce. Place the cones around the yard with one treat under each cone. Guide the animals to the cone and encourage them to knock the cone over and find the treat. Make sure no one eats the plastic cones. When you are done please return the cones to the Enrichment Room and clean them if needed.
- **Music** - If you play a musical instrument and would like to play a sweet melody for our animals, please reach out to a caregiver to discuss this further. There are also radios that can be used. We may discover that they have a favorite station!
- **Scents** - There are scents in the enrichment room with their own spray bottles. If you need to make more, just do a few drops of the scent and dilute down with water. The scents will be labeled with which species can have them, so please be mindful of the species you are working with and any species that they share a pasture/space with. Spray the scent on pieces of cardboard or on things around the yard. DO NOT spray on the bedding for the animals as that is where they sleep and is their space to get away if needed. The animals may not be interested in the scents immediately, and they may also smell it and go away to process the scent. This can be more of a cognitive enrichment for them and may be different than when you do other types of enrichment.