

# EQUINE ENRICHMENT OVERVIEW

Pasado's Safe Haven Equine Enrichment Program is designed to provide a more varied experience for our Sanctuary residents, 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. 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). If you have any ideas of other activities we could add, please contact [Ashleyw@pasadosafehaven.org](mailto:Ashleyw@pasadosafehaven.org), [morganh@pasadosafehaven.org](mailto:morganh@pasadosafehaven.org), or [taelyrk@pasadosafehaven.org](mailto:taelyrk@pasadosafehaven.org) with your suggestions.

- **Cutting Browse** - There are clippers and gloves located in the shop to cut browse. 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 browse to cut but a caregiver can point you in the right direction if needed. Once you have collected a good pile of browse, you can toss them over the fence for the goats/sheep. 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 in 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.

- **Large Inflatable Ball-** This is a large ball that can be found in the tack room at cows. Once the ball is in the pasture gently kick the ball around. Please do not kick/throw the ball directly at the cows, this may make them afraid of a toy that is meant for fun.
- **Brushing/Grooming-** Brushes can be found in the tack area of Old Barn under the counter. Take the brush and gently go in the same direction as the fur. This will help remove their winter coat and dirt. There is a bottle of Rescue for sanitizing the brushes on the counter. Please spray the brushes off with Rescue before putting them back.
- **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 leaves of lettuce. Break the lettuce leaf off and feed it through the holes in the ball. Place in the 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.
- **Hose Toy-** There is a hose with no metal detachable parts in the hay area of Old Barn. Radio and ask a Ruminant Caregiver if you can put this out in the yard- it might take a few minutes for the donkeys to be interested in it, and if they don't want to play with it right away can leave it in the yard.
- **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 to hang 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 some 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.
- **Jolly Ball -** You can find Jolly Balls in the enrichment room. You can kick them around the pasture so that the animals can chase the ball, kick it themselves, or play tug o' war with each other. Please remember not to throw the Jolly Balls at the animals, this may make them afraid of a toy that is meant for fun.
- **Stuffed Animals-** These are located on the shelves in the enrichment room. These can be given to the donkeys as long as you stay with them while they have them. If they start to tear at them, please remove as they could eat them and it may make them very sick.
- **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.
- **Other:**
  - **Likit Treats** - These are treats we buy for the animals to lick. From time to time we put out a new flavor and change the container. If you are interested in putting a new flavor out for the animals, let a caregiver know!
  - **Foraging** - Trying to keep brains engaged is an important thing for all animals. One way we can do this is by hiding treats around the yard and allowing the animals to forage for them over time. Ask a caregiver for help if needed!