

SAFETY

EE Safety

- Enriched environment = more danger
- Accept risk
- Act to reduce the risks:
- Try to imagine every way they can interact with EE

Safety Concerns

- Injure themselves
- Injure other animals, staff, visitors
- Escape (use the enrichment to escape the enclosure)
- Keeper access (use the enrichment to block a shift door so the keeper can no longer enter either the enclosure or nighthouse safely)

Common Safety Concerns

- Body Part Trap (limb, head, antler / horn, digit)
- Physical Restraint
- Strangle (neck, limb)
- Sharp Edges / points
- Ingestion
- Heavy Weights
- Fall
- Mouth Obstruction; Suffocate
- Drown
- Inappropriate Material

Body Part Trap: Hole Size

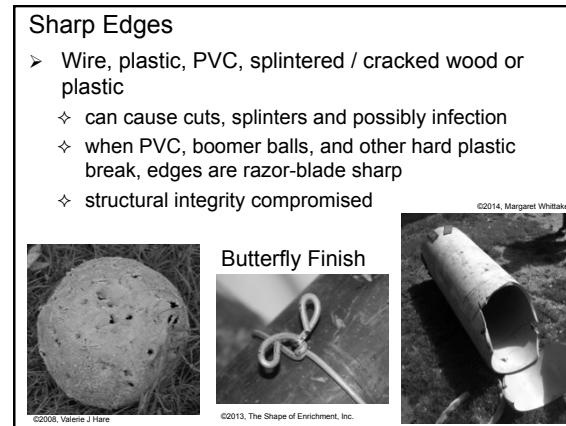
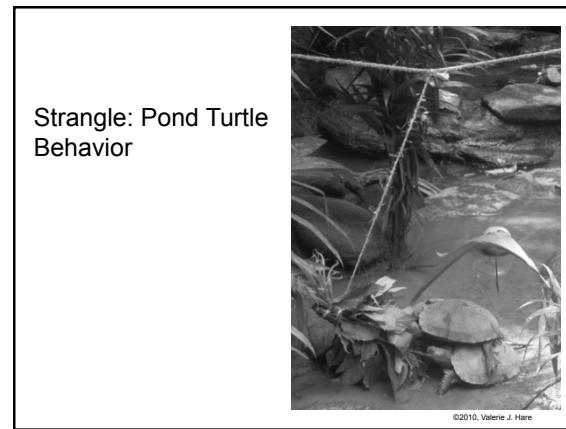
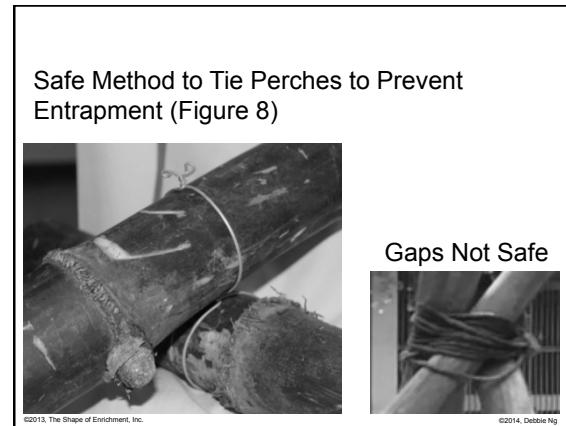
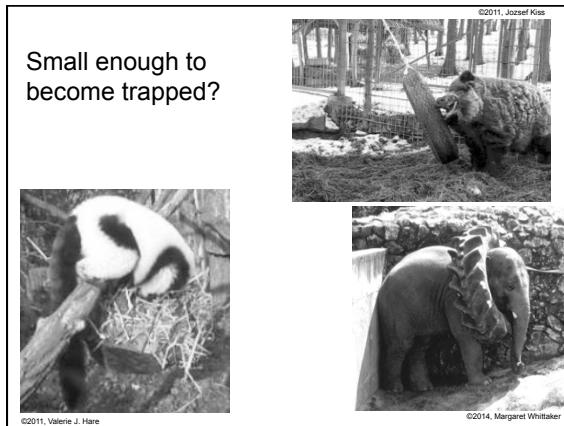
- Jaw, head, limb, trunk, antler / horn, digit, etc. stuck in hole or tube.
- Make the holes too SMALL to insert body parts OR too LARGE to get stuck



Body Part Trap: Tube Diameter

- Diameter
 - ❖ Body part becomes stuck inside tube
 - ❖ If they can get their jaws around it they can:
 - ✚ Break it – edges could be sharp or pieces ingested
 - ✚ Get it stuck in mouth





Ingestion

➤ Swallowed

- ❖ Lodged in gut – blockage or torsion (esp. sand, long fibers)
- ❖ Toxic or poisonous material
- ❖ Sharp edges or points



Ingestion: Fishing Cat & Cotton Bag

Please NEVER put messy food in something the animal can (but shouldn't) eat.

Materials they can but shouldn't eat include cloth, paper, cardboard, etc. These materials should contain ONLY dry foods like seeds, nuts, pellets, bread

Messy food = anything that can soak into the material (e.g., meat, fish, fruit, dried fruit, etc.)

Messy food goes in:

1. Something the animal cannot eat (e.g., PVC)
2. Something the animal can eat but is OK to eat (e.g., bamboo)

Paper & Cardboard

➤ Mouths Glued Shut (Carnivores)

➤ To Prevent Ingestion

- ❖ Recommend "wet" food only in non-ingestible feeders
- ❖ Paper, etc. good for dry food, whole nuts, etc.



Heavy Weights: Macaw with Coconut on Shelf



Fall: Bear and Swing Support



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Mouth Obstruction; Suffocate

➤ Mouth Obstruction

- ❖ can cause tooth damage, prevent eating, abscess, severe distress, and possible suffocation



Mouth Obstruction: Giraffe Target

Drown: Elephant Calf



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Inappropriate Materials

➤ Bungee, rope, firehose, chain, etc.

- ❖ wrapped around neck (strangulation, panic); limbs or digits (become necrotic, amputated, panic); antlers / horns (damage; panic)
- ❖ teeth can be chipped on chain

Turtle and Rope; Tiger and Thin PVC; Maned Wolf and Flexible Feeder Ball



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Some Safe Practices

- What you take in, you take out!
- If you drop it, pick it up NOW!
- File rough edges
- Don't spread your germs
- Don't transmit disease/parasites from one enclosure to another
- Do not compromise the structure of exhibit
- Be able to "undo" whatever you did

Inspect, Inspect, Inspect!

- Wear and Tear of Items
- Cleanliness of Items
- Frayed Material (e.g. rope)
- Unsecured Ends (e.g. Wire)
- Loose Parts
- Be SURE the item you give is approved for THAT individual



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Make Sure All Enrichment Is Safe for EVERYONE in Enclosure



©Dublin Zoo



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Safety Database www.enrichment.org

THE SHAPE OF ENRICHMENT

10 ICEE Registrations and Selected Submits are NOW open... Congratulation to our \$350 Lee Hsien Scholarship recipients Nguyen Thi Thu Hien, Nghi Pham, and Tran Ngan!

[Need Help? Call: 619-459-0000 or Email: \[info@shapeofenrichment.org\]\(mailto:info@shapeofenrichment.org\)](#)

Welcome to The Shape of Enrichment's Safety Database!

Instructions

The database is searchable in three criteria - Taxa, Enrichment, and Hazard. Searches can include multiple criteria and multiple selections can be made. To search for multiple items in a category, hold down the Control key (PC) or the Command key (Mac) while clicking on each selection.

To ensure you access all the entries that may be valuable, and to reduce the risk of missing items that might help make your enrichment efforts safer, we encourage you to use the 'Search' function. Consider multiple searches, or using the (all) search function to maximize the information available to help you evaluating potential enrichment risks.

[Return to the Safety Home Page.](#)

Taxa

(all)	(all)	(all)
Amphibian	Animals	Animal, Harm to
Bird: Other	Branches & Plants	Distress
Bird: Avianine	Bungee Cord & Springs	Injury or Harm to
Bird: Asptor	Cardboard & Paper	Entangle or Strangle
Fish	Chain	Entangle Body Part
Fish: Cartilaginous	Clothes	Escape
Fish: Chondrichtyans	Clips & Fasteners	Ingest
Invertebrate: Terrestrial	Fire Hose	Injury or Ingest
Mammal: Carnivore, Large	Food Item	Locate in Mouth or Suffocate
Mammal: Carnivore, Small	Hand	Other Hazard
Mammal: Hoofstock, Large	Metal Objects	People, Harm to
Mammal: Hoofstock, Small	Other Material	
Mammal: Other	Plastic & PVC Objects	
Mammal: Primates	Rope	
Mammal: Primates, Apes	Rubber Objects	
Mammal: Primates, Monkeys	Scent	
Mammal: Primates, Nonprimates		

Enrichment

Hazard

[Select](#)

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Website Design and Implementation by Randy Weeden [Graphic Design by Adriyn Hare](#)

PLEASE don't forget your own safety!



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Take Home Message...

Stop
Think
Use Common Sense!

