



AZA Enrichment Guiding Principles

The guiding principles outlines the philosophical approach to Enrichment within AZA and puts some guide rails on how AZA Professional Development Courses teach this topic.

- » Enrichment is defined by AZA as “A process to ensure that the behavioral and physical needs of an animal are being met by providing opportunities for species-appropriate behaviors and choices.”
- » Enrichment is one aspect of a broader animal welfare and behavioral husbandry program.
- » Modern zoological practices and philosophies should guide enrichment practices.
- » Animal enrichment is taught based on the foundation of behavioral science and evidence-based practices.
- » AZA facilities should be focused on providing opportunities for animals to express species typical behaviors based on an understanding of natural and individual history.
- » Animals should be provided the opportunity to choose among a variety of conditions within their environment.
- » There is an AZA framework that is used for designing and maintaining enrichment programs to set goals and maintain consistent processes. This framework tool consists of goal setting, planning, implementation, documentation, evaluation and reassessment.