

Research from Osnabrück Zoo

Reported by Ute Magiera

Zoo Osnabrück, Am Waldzoo

2-3; D-49082 Osnabrück

e-mail: [zoo@zoo-](mailto:zoo@zoo-osnabrueck.de)

[osnabrueck.de](mailto:zoo@zoo-osnabrueck.de)

in cooperation with the

University of Osnabrück

Prof. Dr. H.H. Bergmann

Behavioural enrichment of Rhinoceros

*Ceratotherium simum
simum,*

*Beatrix Schröder, 1999. Thesis,
completed*

We tried to figure out if behavioural enrichment has any effect on inactive behavioural patterns, the social relationship between the animals (1,1), especially on antagonistic behaviour and body contacts, and comfort behaviour such as hornrubbing. Scents such as essential oils, herbs on sand and clothes (human scent) were distributed on various places in the enclosure. Vegetables were hidden in haystacks to make the intake of food more interesting for the animals, and various sounds such as a bird-song, desert sounds etc were presented to the animals.

Both animals showed a significant increase in activity compared with the

observations made beforehand during all offerings. Both animals showed most reaction to human scent as far as exploring and locomotion is concerned. The female and the male both preferred rosemary in essential oils and woodruff/lavender in herbs. Antagonistic behaviour was recorded more often if extra-food was presented. Most social contacts were recorded at high pitched sounds (bird-song) Hornrubbing turned out to neither increase nor decrease by behavioural Enrichment but changed in its quantity if the animal came in contact with water (rain or bathing).

Effects of behavioural enrichment on tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*) in Osnabrück Zoo.

*Martina Penning, 1998. Thesis,
completed.*

The effects of three different kinds of behavioural enrichment were investigated. The first enrichment was food-based and involved twigs, pieces of fruits and vegetables hidden in hay, jute-sacks as well as tree trunks filled with food pieces, in water frozen fruits and half of melons that were hung up on trees. The food-based enrichment was intended to simulate the tapir's natural habitat and thereby to increase active foraging and reduce resting

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