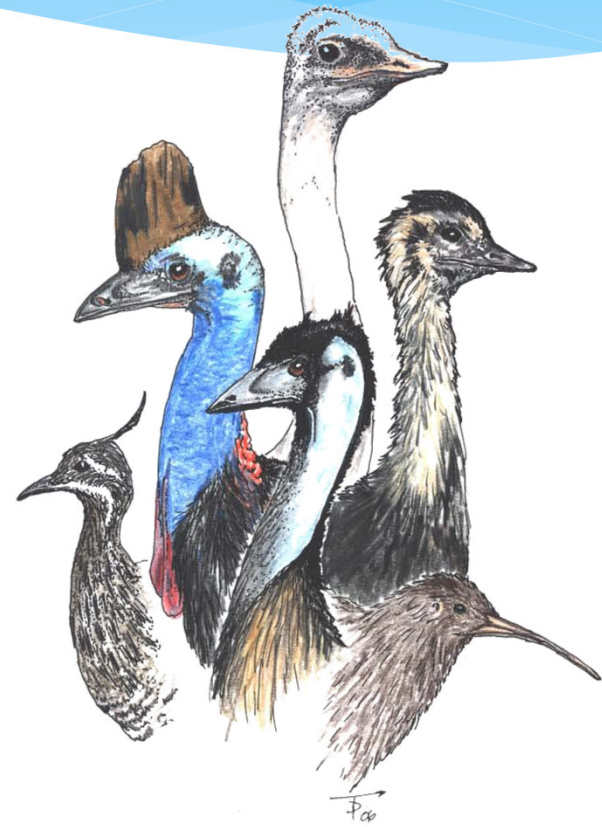


**JANUARY – MARCH 2014**

# Ratite TAG Enrichment Feature



# Enrichment

The incorporation of environmental (behavioral) enrichment in the daily husbandry practices of the animals cared for in AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums is required by [AZA Accreditation Standards](http://www.aza.org/enrichment/)

<http://www.aza.org/enrichment/>

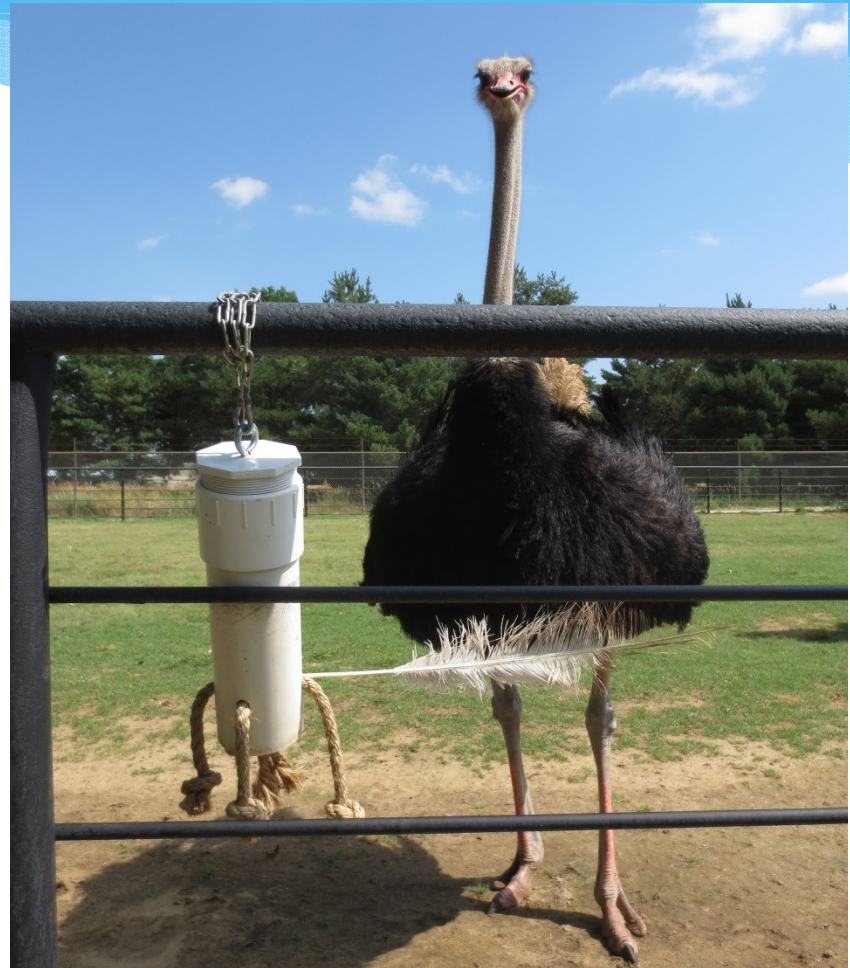


Photo credit: Brenda Gunder Rolling Hills Zoo





CD Mobile By Brenda Gunder, Rolling Hills Zoo

### **Environmental Enrichment Devices**

Environmental enrichment devices (EEDs) are objects that can be manipulated by the animal. These objects may be novel or pre-existing. Natural EEDs may include browse, large and small branches, wood wool, hay, and flowers however these items should be kept clean to prevent bacterial growth. Man-made EEDs may include premade items such as car wash roller brushes or strips, Boomer balls, tires, and Kong toys, or constructed items such as puzzle boxes, piñatas, and various PVC contraptions.

<http://www.aza.org/enrichment/>



# Enrichment

<http://www.aza.org/enrichment/>



## Food Enrichment

Food can be presented in a variety of ways elicit feeding, hunting, foraging behaviors, problem-solving strategies, and to facilitate behavioral conditioning. Food may be fresh, frozen, soft, hard, smooth, rough, heavy, light, cold, or and may be incorporated into puzzle boxes, hidden in or scattered about the habitat, or buried in the substrate



Photo credits: Hilary Colton, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

## Enrichment Schedule

Enrichment devices and strategies should be presented on a varied schedule and in a variety of contexts to make sure the animals do not become desensitized or habituated to them. The animal care staff should maintain a detailed schedule for what type of enrichment will be introduced for a specified date, time, duration in the habitat (if it is appropriate to remove it), location, and type of presentation that is randomized. These records should also provide a summary of the animal's responses to the enrichment to ensure that safety continues to be a priority and that the animals are still stimulated by it.

<http://www.aza.org/enrichment/>



Photo credit: Joel Sartore





Send in your enrichment  
photos and ideas to:  
[dana.urbanski@nczoo.org](mailto:dana.urbanski@nczoo.org)

Show off your favorite  
ratite using its enrichment!

The Ratite TAG does not take responsibility for enrichment use.  
Please evaluate enrichment for your own facility