

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Brush Head Box

This device can be filled with insects, browse, seed mixtures, or other diet items to promote foraging behaviors in small mammals. The box can be adapted for different species by changing the size of the box, as well as the size of brushes and holes. Eye-bolts and clips can also be added to offer item to arboreal species.

This idea was inspired by a design from Daggi Andreassen – Enrichment Zooloutions.

This enrichment item has been successfully implemented with: Blue tree monitor, caracara, marmosets, serval, tamarins. (See video links below!)

Items needed:

- Scrub brush(es)
- Wood planks, about 20mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") in thickness
- Hinges with 20mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") screws
- Latches with 20mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") screws
- 40mm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") screws
- Drill with drill bits
- Hole saw
- Hand- or circular-saw
- Sandpaper
- Measuring tape
- Pencil

Safety concerns:

- Consider hole size to avoid entrapment of animal head or appendages
- Ensure brush integrity prior to offering enrichment
- Additional hinges and latches may be required based on the targeted species' strength
- **This device should be implemented as part of a goal-focused enrichment program. Individual animal characteristics should be fully considered before trialing.**

Directions:

1. Determine the size of your box based on the size of the brushes you are using.
 - a. The base and lid of the box will be the length of the brush plus 40mm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") by the width of the brush plus 40mm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").
 - b. Two walls will be the height of the brush by the length plus 40mm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").
 - c. Two walls will be the height by width of the brush.
2. Mark the measurements on the boards and use a hand or circular saw to cut the boards to size.
3. Assemble the side pieces so that you have a box without a base or lid. Drill pilot holes before screwing pieces together or else the wood will split!
4. Attach the sides to the base. Double check the brush fits snugly in the space but do not attach the brush yet. You may need to deconstruct the box in the end slightly in order to insert the brush.

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5. Use the hole saw to make holes around the walls of the box. Remember the base of the brush may block any lower holes. Also, be aware of the location of the screws holding the walls together to avoid saw to screw contact.
6. Set the lid on the box so the lid and side are flush, then measure and mark where you'd like your hinges to be. Keep the hinge knuckle facing out from the back of your box and drill to attach it to the side and then the lid.
 - a. When laying out the hinges, it is important that you square them to the top and to the sides of the box. Otherwise, the lid will not close or open correctly.
7. Attach the latches to the front of the box. You may need multiple, depending on the size of the box and strength of the animal.
8. Use the hole saw to make any additional holes on the lid, if desired.
9. Thoroughly sand all holes and any rough edges.
10. Add the brush to the box and use screws to firmly attach it to the base.

Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/MarmosetBrushBox>

<http://bit.ly/MonitorandKusimanseBrushBox>

<http://bit.ly/MeerkatBrushBox>

We'd love to see your animals in action! Send pictures or videos of your animals using this device to mark@teambuildingwithbite.co.uk



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