

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Giraffe Tongue Feeder

This feeder is great for displaying the giraffe's incredible 18-inch tongue while also prolonging foraging times! These instructions are for a three-tiered feeder, but they can be easily modified to make different sizes. The feeders can also be adapted for use on safari trucks by switching the staple plates with heavy duty storage hooks.

This idea was inspired by a design from Sarah Bonsall – Banham Zoo, UK

This enrichment device has been successfully implemented with: Giraffe!

Items needed:

- 7mm thick clear polycarbonate (we use 400mmx500mm)
- 4mm thick clear polycarbonate (same dimensions as 7mm piece)
- 12mm thick x 100mm wide wood planks
- 40mm wood screws
- 16mm wood screws
- 25mm self-tapping screws (roofing screws)
- 6 M6 x 25mm hex bolts
- 12 penny washers
- 6 lock nuts
- 50mm x 50mm aluminum angle bar cut into 300mm lengths
- 4 staple plates
- Handsaw
- Drill with bits
- Hole saw (~60mm for female giraffe and ~68mm for male)
- Socket wrench
- Sandpaper
- Measuring tape
- Pencil

Safety concerns:

- Ensure all wooden parts of the feeder are thoroughly sanded.
- **This device should be implemented as part of a goal-focused enrichment program. Individual animal characteristics should be fully considered before trialing.**

Directions:

1. Measure and cut your wood planks. You will need:
 - a. Two pieces equal to the length of your polycarbonate, plus 10mm
 - b. Four pieces equal to the width of your polycarbonate, minus 15mm.
2. Assemble the two length pieces and two of the width pieces into a rectangle using the 40mm screws. Drill pilot holes before screwing pieces together to avoid splitting the wood.
3. Place the remaining two wood pieces to make the inner shelves. These can be placed anywhere inside the feeder, but be sure to leave enough room to make tongue holes on the



Figure 1

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

polycarbonate. Secure into place with 40mm screws (see Figure 1).

4. Attach the 7mm piece of polycarbonate to the front of your square using the self-tapping screws. Drill pilot holes to avoid cracking the polycarbonate.
5. Use the hole saw to make holes on the front of the feeder.
6. To attach the angle bars to the feeder, first drill holes on both ends of one edge of the bar to fit the bolt. You may need to start with a small drill bit and work your way up to a larger one (see Figure 2).
7. Lay the 4mm polycarbonate on the back of your feeder. Place the angle bars on three sides to mark the holes for the bolts. Make sure to leave a small gap between the feeder and the bar for the polycarbonate piece to slide in and out. A piece of cardboard between the polycarbonate and metal can help here. Drill the holes through the plywood and secure bars with the bolts, washers and lock nuts. Washers can be used to create a larger gap if the polycarbonate piece is too tight on the sides.
8. Attach the staple plates to the corners of the feeder using 16mm wood screws (see Figure 3).
9. Remove the protective coating and the 4mm piece of polycarbonate should now slide into place on the back of the feeder.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/Giraffetonguefeeder>

<http://bit.ly/GiraffeFeederSafari1>

<http://bit.ly/GiraffeFeederSafari2>

We'd love to see your animals in action! Send pictures or videos of your animals using this device to

Mark@teambuildingwithbite.co.uk

