

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Pig Push Log

This feeder is designed to promote the natural rooting behavior of pigs and increase physical exertion while foraging for food.

This enrichment device has been successfully implemented with: Warthogs, bearded pigs, red river hogs, and domestic pigs. A stronger version has also been used successfully with European brown bears.

Items needed:

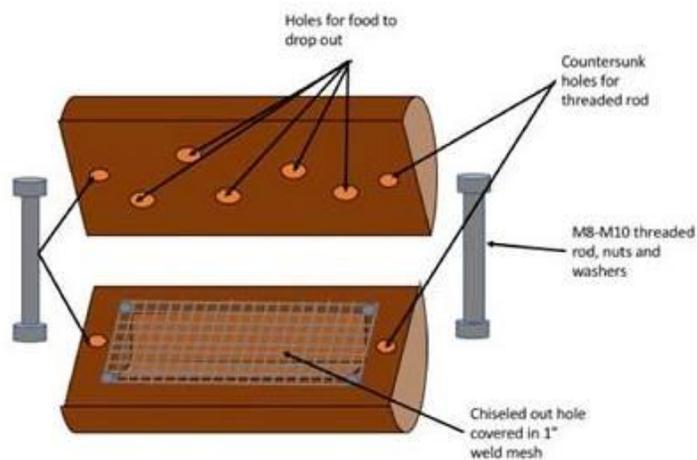
- x2 600mm x 150mm chestnut half-rounds
- x2 ~140mm M12 threaded rods
- x4 M12 washers
- x2 M12 nuts
- x2 M12 lock nuts
- Hammer and Chisel, or Router
- File
- Sandpaper
- Clamps
- Pencil
- Drill with bits

Optional to slow down feeding further:

- 25mm weld mesh
- Wire cutters
- Screws and washers

Safety concerns:

- Metalwork must be countersunk to prevent damage to animal teeth.
- Item must be thoroughly checked after each use and removed from circulation when log degradation risks exposing screws and metalwork.
- **This device should be implemented as part of a goal-focused enrichment program. Individual animal characteristics should be fully considered before trialing.**



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Directions:

1. On one half round, mark an approximately 25-50mm wide x 300mm long channel down the center of the log. Make sure to leave enough space on either end (about 150mm) for the threaded rod to secure the log halves together.
2. Create a ~25-30mm deep channel by using a large spade bit (25-32mm) to remove as much of the wood as possible, and then tidy using a chisel. Alternatively, if you have access to a router, this can be used instead.
3. On the other half round, mark out a corresponding rectangle that lines up with the channel when the logs are connected together. Drill multiple holes that are large enough to allow food to drop out of the device within this marked area.
4. To fit the two halves back together, clamp the two pieces together and drill a hole approximately 2mm bigger than the rod size, all the way through the center of the 150mm space on either end of the log. Ideally use a drill bit that will go straight through both halves. A wider drill bit should then be used to countersink both sides, allowing the nuts and washers to sit below the surface of the log to protect the animal's teeth. Drill straight through one side first, countersink and bolt together with a lock nut on one side and normal nut on the other before drilling the second side. If you do not have a bit that will go all the way through:
 - a. Drill as far into the second half as possible on one side, remove the top layer and continue drilling down through the second half.
 - b. Countersink both ends, insert the threaded rod through the completed side and secure, leaving only a small amount of movement between the two. Re-clamp the two halves and drill down as far as possible on the other side. Unclamp the sides and slide the top piece to the side to allow you to finish drilling through the second half.
5. Once the pigs become proficient at using the device, you can increase the difficulty by cutting a piece of weld mesh to cover the channel and secure into place with short screws and washers to further restrict the amount of food that can pass through the holes.

Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/ConstructionRedRiverHogs>

<http://bit.ly/PigPushWarthog>

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