

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Fence Mounted Feeder

In some paddocks containing browsing species, there can be limited options for suspending browse and feeding devices at appropriate heights. We designed this device not only to add multiple browsing spots to enclosures, but to allow rotation between different paddocks. The additional benefit of having them close to the visitor fence line is allowing these feeding behaviours to be displayed up close to the public.

This enrichment device has been successfully implemented with: Malayan and Brazilian tapirs, Donkeys, Boer goats. A heavier duty version has also been trialed with black rhino and takin.

Items needed:

- 2x4" lumber
- 70mm screws
- 30mm screws
- x2 jointing plates
- x3-4 140mm bolts
- x3-4 wingnuts
- Eyebolt
- Sisal rope
- Carabiner
- Handsaw
- Drill with bits
- Sandpaper
- Measuring tape
- Pencil

Safety concerns:

- Ensure all wooden parts are thoroughly sanded.
- Consider whether it is best to use treated or untreated wood depending on the hoofstock species tendency to chew.
- **This device should be implemented as part of a goal-focused enrichment program. Individual animal characteristics should be fully considered before trialing.**

Directions:

1. The height of this device will depend on the size of the fence to which it will be attached and the height of the targeted species. Determine the desired height of the arm from the top of the fence and cut a piece of wood to this length to make the supporting upright (piece B in Figure 1).
2. Determine the total height of the device by including the height of the fence and cut a piece of wood to make the longer upright (piece A in Figure 1).
3. Determine the desired length of the arm and cut a piece of wood to this length.

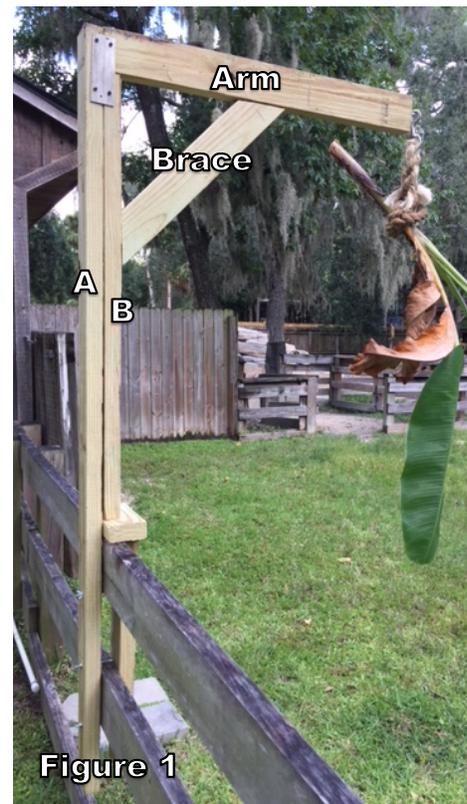


Figure 1

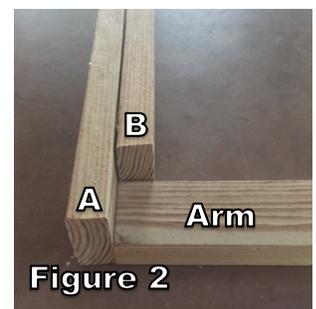


Figure 2

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4. Attach the arm on its side to the longer upright using 70mm screws (see Figure 2). Drill pilot holes before using screws to avoid splitting the wood.
5. Place the supporting upright beneath the arm and attach to the longer upright using 70mm screws.
6. To make the supporting brace, place a piece of wood underneath the arm and upright (see Figure 3) and mark where each end intersects the device. Cut along these lines.
7. Attach the brace to the arm using the jointing plate and 30mm screws (see Figure 5). To attach the bottom of the brace to the upright, first drill pocket pilot holes. To do so, start with the drill perpendicular to the brace piece and slowly drill a small hole then move the drill perpendicular to the upright and finish drilling the pilot hole. Attach with 70mm screws.
8. Attach the second jointing plate to the two uprights using 30mm screws (see Figure 1).
9. Cut a ~200mm piece of wood and attach perpendicular to the base of upright B. This piece will rest on top of the fence to support the structure.
10. Attach the eyebolt to the end of the arm.



Figure 3

The attachment of the browser to the fence will depend on the design of the fence.

11. For horizontal fences, first measure the width of the fence boards and the distance between each board.
12. Cut a length of wood roughly equal to the bottom portion of upright A.
13. Line up the piece of wood with the bottom of upright A (below the horizontal piece if that makes sense). Use the fence measurements to mark where the bolts will pass through to hold the browser in place. You will want one bolt right above and below each fence plank (see Figure 4).
14. Drill holes large enough for the bolts to pass through each piece. It helps to drill the first hole and then place the bolt through to keep the pieces from shifting while you drill the rest.
15. Secure the feeder to the fence using the wingnuts to sandwich the two bottom pieces together.
16. For fences with vertical bars, cut four ~200mm pieces of wood.
17. Secure the center of two of the pieces to the bottom of upright A so that they are perpendicular to the upright (see Figure 5 for spacing). These pieces should be on the inside of the upright so that they will be pressed against the fence when mounted.
18. Lay the remaining two pieces on top of the first two and drill holes through each for the bolts to pass.
19. Secure the feeder to the fence using the wingnuts to sandwich the bottom pieces together.



Figure 4



Figure 5

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Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/TapirFenceMount>

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