

Roots & Shoots Groups Can Make a Difference for Chimpanzees at Coulston Lab

Under the dedicated leadership of Dr. Carole Noon, nearly 300 of captive chimpanzees were released September 2002 from the nation's largest primate-testing laboratory, the Coulston Foundation in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Formed in the 1950's by Fred Coulston, the Coulston Foundation Primate-Testing Laboratory conducted experiments on chimpanzees for the first American, manned space flights. Throughout the years, the Coulston Foundation has faced significant financial trouble, filing for bankruptcy this past July. In recent years, Coulston was charged with four violations of the **Animal Welfare Act**. Facing financial ruin, Fred Coulston agreed to sign over "ownership" of the nearly 300 chimpanzees to Dr. Carole Noon, founder of the **Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care**.

Help Dr. Carole and the chimpanzees at Coulston by making or contributing enrichment items. Animals need enrichment items to stimulate them mentally, physically, and help with their social development.

Enrichment Items You Can Make:

1. **Chimp Toys** have been made by staff and volunteers of JGI-USA and offer chimpanzees a unique form of enrichment. These paper mache toys encourage chimps to exercise natural behaviors such as hammering (as in breaking open a piece of fruit) and termite-fishing (a discovery Dr. Jane is well known for). See directions below:
2. **Bucket Feeders**—With the help of an adult, you can make an easy enrichment item for chimps using an old 5 gallon bucket with lid. Take the bucket and have an adult drill or punch several small holes into the sides of the bucket. Place the lid on top. When completed, these buckets can be used to hide food and treats for the chimps (From www.enrichmentonline.org).
3. **Plastic Jug Feeders**—You can use an empty plastic milk or juice jug to provide enrichment for chimps. Make sure the jug is thoroughly cleaned so the plastic jug is safe for the chimps. With the help of adult, drill or punch several holes in the sides of the jug. Place the cap back on. When completed, the plastic jug will be filled with food and hung from a tree for the chimps to play with (from www.enrichmentonline.org).

4. **Collect Pinecones**—Look around your yard for pinecones. Make sure you only gather ones that do not come from chemically treated trees! If you are not sure, do not take them. The pinecones will be used by staff members as treat feeders for the chimps (from www.enrichmentonline.org).

5. **Gather items for Spice Paste**—With your parent's permission, look through your kitchen to find some or all of the following spices: Allspice, Ground nutmeg, Rosemary sprigs, Cloves, Ground ginger, and Ground lemon peel. You may also purchase these spices at the grocery store. Collect these items and mail them to the Coulston staff. The staff can use these items to make a spice paste which can be rubbed on items throughout the chimp enclosure or placed on pinecones for the chimps to play with (from www.enrichmentonline.org).

Option 2: Donate Everyday Items From Around Your House

Other, everyday objects can also be used as enrichment for chimps. Please consider donating any of the following to help the chimpanzees at Coulston:

- Bags/Burlap Sacks/Cardboard Boxes
- Brushes or Combs
- Chalk/Colored Pencils/Coloring Books/Construction Paper/Crayons
- Balloons/Dolls/ Stuffed Animals
- Shower Caps/Toothbrushes (**For the chimps' safety, items should be new.**)
- Clothes/Shoes/Hats/Purses/Old sheets, tablecloths or blankets
- Junk Mail/Magazines/Photos/Drawings/Newspaper/Phone books
- Hoses/Water Pistols

Also, you can help by donating any of the following items from Dr. Carole Noon's Wish List:

- Blankets
- Little Tyke Toys
- Assorted nuts in the shell
- Dried Fruits or Fruit Loop Cereal
- Gift Certificates to their produce supplier (see www.savethechimps.org for more information).

Please mail all items to the following address:

**The Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care
1300 LaVelle Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310**

Learn more by visiting www.savethechimps.org or www.seec.net.



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Directions for Making Chimp Paper Maiche Enrichment Toys

You will need the following materials:

1. Small round balloons
2. Brown paper grocery bags
 - a. must be torn up into small strips no bigger than 2 inches squared.
 - b. pieces do not have to be neat or exact.
3. One Small bag of All-Purpose Flour
4. Several cups of water
5. Containers to hold the "glue."
6. Paint brushes (optional)

How to Assemble:

1. Blow up and tie off balloons.
2. Mix equal parts flour and water in a container. (Make sure mixture is smooth and even)
3. Spread the flour mix on both the balloon and the pieces of paper.
4. Overlap the pieces of paper to cover the entire balloon, allowing a small hole at the top to allow easy removal of balloon.
5. Use a hair dryer to thoroughly dry the balloon or allow the balloon to set over night.
6. After the first layer is dry, add a second layer and allow that to dry completely.
7. Add a third layer and allow to completely dry.
8. Pop the balloon and remove it from the ball, then let it dry overnight.

***It is very important to cover the balloon in at least three thick layers. Also, it is important to use grocery bags because they are thicker and hold up better.

(Using a hair dryer, speeds up the drying and will allow you to complete the project in two hours.)