

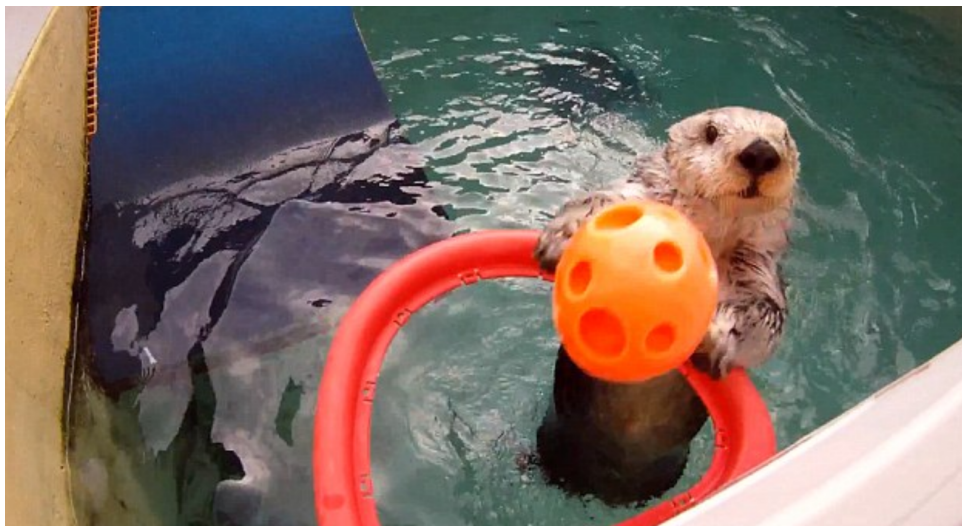
Enrichment toy for big cats

What could possibly go wrong?

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“Toys” are used to provide environment enrichment to animals in Zoos

- Environmental enrichment encourages animals to use their natural abilities and behaviors to interact with their environment.



Big cat behavior in the wild



99 percent of the time...



1 percent of the time...

Unmet need: A toy that can stimulate the predation behavior in big cats

- Rugged and reusable
- Safe for animals and keepers
- “Active”
- Proposed initial focus is cheetahs for a range of reasons
 - Demeanor
 - Least destructive of the big cats
 - Prevalence of cheetahs throughout US zoos

Me

- Mechanical engineering (BS, University of Pittsburgh)
- Biomedical engineering (ME, PhD; CMU)
- Professor at University of Pittsburgh
- President of a medical product incubator (Ension, Inc.)
- Volunteer at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
- Co-designer of several tools for Conservation Engineering
 - “Head cage” to enable conscious physical examinations of polar bears
 - Low-cost, high accuracy “tracker”; initial use with manatees
 - Sea turtle “rehabilitation tracker”