

How Can We Modify Zoo Environments To Improve Animal Welfare in Gorillas?

Due to adaption to their varied environments, zoo-housed and wild Western lowland gorillas have different lifestyles



Gorillas in the wild

Foraging

70%

Resting

21%

Gorillas in the zoo

Foraging

25%

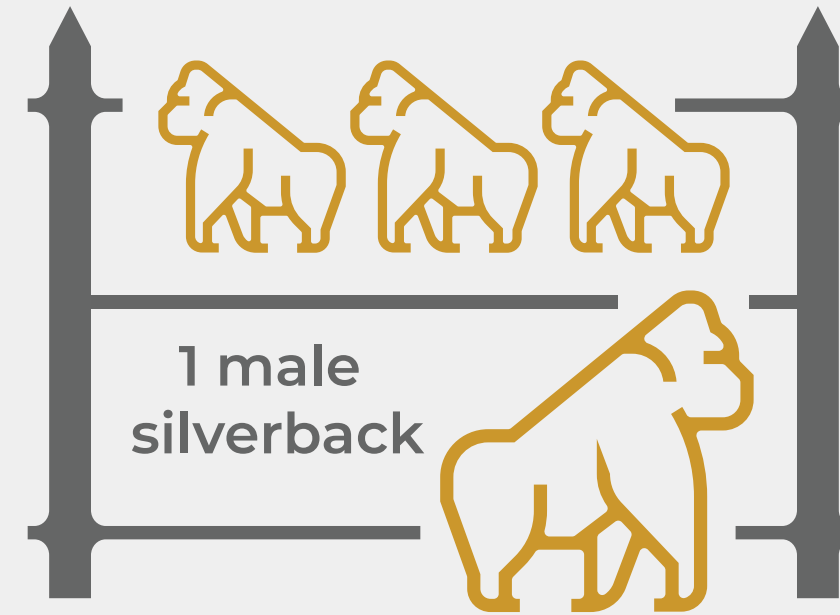
Resting

54%



ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

3 adult female western lowland gorillas



1 male silverback

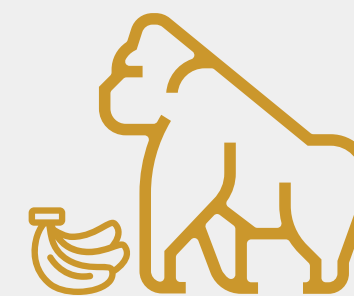
Enrichment modification - one new form of enrichment per week

6 Weeks

Measurement of...

Activity level

Foraging level



OBSERVATIONS OVER 6 WEEKS

Activity levels



23.96%

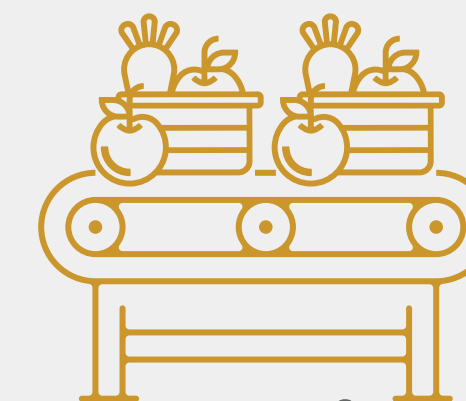
47.48%

Foraging levels



8.15%

27.87%



Use of automatic belt feeder



Largest increase in activity and foraging levels

Providing a variety of environmental enrichment to gorillas housed in zoological facilities increases foraging and activity levels, and improves animal welfare