

1) Browse →

- Pre-approved, fresh cut, non-toxic browse is given to our Orangutans for nest building, tool use (they use the sticks to dig in their exhibit), play item, and of course if it's tasty they will eat it.



- This is one of our females (Tara) hamming up for the camera with some browse.
(Katrina McCauley/Jane McEvoy – Columbus Zoo)

4) Blue Barrel/Wooden Feeder Box →

- A hanging, heavy walled, modified plastic barrel (see building instructions for more detail) is given to our Orangutans as a feeding device and to encourage tool use. The wooden feeder box was made from plywood and served the same purpose



- One of our Orangutans approaching the device.

- A 55 gallon drum that was fitted with shelves and had 6 cm holes drilled into it. The barrel was closed at both ends and hung in the indoor exhibit from a chain in the center of the enclosure. The wooden box measures 2 feet square and is 3 feet tall with four shelves with holes drilled in the bottom at random so that the food or treats don't fall straight out. It has to be manipulated. There are also holes drilled in the sides of the box to encourage tool use. One of the sides of the box also opens for easy cleaning.



(Katrina McCauley/Jane McEvoy – Columbus Zoo)

2) Ice Treats →

- Frozen juice with or without treats. We also place small sticks of cut browse for them to hold onto while eating their ice treats. We use these to provide added hydration in hot, humid weather.



- This is one of our females (Sally) enjoying her ice treat with out getting her hands sticky. (Notice she is holding it by the stick provided)

- We use anything from small yogurt containers to large black tubs to make our ice treats. We can toss them the smaller ones and place the larger ones in their exhibit before they are put into their yard.

(Katrina McCauley/Jane McEvoy – Columbus Zoo)

3) Piñatas →

- Painted paper maché objects are given to the Orangutans as a novel way of presenting treats or diet. They also enjoy sitting in the large ones and can use them as moveable shade structures as well.



- These are two of our Orangutans (Willie and Sally) interacting with a larger piñata. They utilized this particular piñata throughout the day.

- Before using any boxes we make sure that all sticker, tape, and staples are removed. We also make small piñatas by blowing up balloons and paper macheing over them. Once they have dried we remove the balloon. For the paper mache paste we use a mixture of flour and water. We add a small amount of salt once we have the proper consistency. Do not add glue or any other ingredients to the mixture. We have found that it is best to do one layer at a time with drying time in between layers so that the items dry all the way through and do not start growing mold or mildew. (The salt helps with this as well)

(Katrina McCauley/Jane McEvoy – Columbus Zoo)

5) PVC Feeder Tube →

- Two foot long 4 inch diameter PVC pipe with caps on each end secured by bolts and with holes drilled at random in the sides. We give this to our Orangutans to encourage tool use and increase activity levels.



- Two of our Orangutans (Tara and Sally) trying to extract peanut butter from the device.

- This device was made from a two foot long PVC pipe with PVC caps held in place with bolts. Holes of varying diameter were then drilled into the pipe. We used a four inch diameter pipe but different diameters and length of pipe could be used. We used bolts to secure the ends so that they could be removed for easy cleaning.



(Katrina McCauley/Jane McEvoy – Columbus Zoo)