1. PURPOSE

The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe an appropriate environmental enrichment program for non-human primates (NHPs).

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Facility Animal Care Committees (FACCs), principal investigators (PIs), animal care staff

3. PROCEDURES

3.1. The purpose of environmental enrichment is to provide non-human primates with opportunities to express basic behavior needs, to promote species-typical, non-injurious, behavior and to promote physical and mental health thus enhancing animal welfare. The environmental enrichment should be biologically relevant (i.e.: hiding, socializing, searching) so that it does not lose its enriching value over time.

3.2. Social Contact:
   3.2.1. Pair or group house non-human primates of the same gender.
   3.2.2. Non-human primates may be singly housed in some cases:
      3.2.2.1. Incompatibility
      3.2.2.2. Medical reasons
      3.2.2.3. Specific protocol approved by FACC

3.3. Housing System:
   3.3.1. Animals should be housed with the goal of maximizing species-specific behaviors and minimizing stress-induced behaviors.
   3.3.2. House non-human primates preferably in cages favoring higher vertical spaces, maximizing the use of the cage volume with perches, swings, ropes, platforms, nests, etc. at different levels.
   3.3.3. Provide regular opportunity for exercise, unless specifically described in a protocol and approved by the FACC.
   3.3.4. Housing system should exceed the minimal space recommendations established by CCAC.

3.4. Dietary Enrichment:
   3.4.1. Increase time spent eating and foraging for food with modified feeders and foraging devices.
   3.4.2. Provide a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits (in small quantities) regularly (at least 3 times/week). Vegetables should be thoroughly rinsed prior to use.
   3.4.3. Give treats as reward for positive reinforcement.

3.5. Objects:
   3.5.1. Toys:
      3.5.1.1. Provide and rotate toys on a bi-weekly basis (e.g. Kong toys, wooden blocks, balls, mirrors, etc.). Toys must be safe.

3.6. Exemption:
   3.6.1. Exemption from this environmental enrichment program must be justified and approved by the FACC, or prescribed for medical reasons.