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

Due to adaptation 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%

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**ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**
- 3 adult female western lowland gorillas
- 1 male silverback
- Enrichment modification - one new form of enrichment per week

**6 Weeks**

**OBSERVATIONS OVER 6 WEEKS**
- Activity levels: 47.48%
- Foraging levels: 27.87%

Largest increase in activity and foraging levels

*Use of automatic belt feeder*

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