



## Hose2Habitat Fire Hose Hammock Hide

Adapted from instructions submitted for the Hose2Habitat Enrichment Contest 2016.  
Winner: Seriously Folks Category. Permission for publication and use granted by  
Jesse Worthy, Erin Nipper, and Allison Hedgecoth, Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary, Georgia.



### General Information:

Hammock Hides can vary in size and may be used with many small mammals. The Hammock Hides offer animals comfortable lounging locations, as well as an additional hiding space to help them feel secure. An elevated resting and hiding structure enhances an enclosure's structural enrichment, giving the animal more choice in its environment, which may dramatically improve the welfare of captive animals.

### Safety Concerns:

To hang the Hammock Hide, chain can be looped through the fire hose at the 4 corners then covered with additional fire hose strips (cut to whatever length your hanging chain needs to be). Covering exposed chain with fire hose will help protect animals from getting caught in the chain links. Because frayed fire hose can get entangled around animals digits, trim, seal, or over exposed fire hose ends.

### Items Needed:

- Fire hose (amount depends on size of Hammock Hide being made and width of fire hose)
- Tool to cut fire hose
- 2"x4" boards (length depends on side of Hammock Hide being made)
- Saw to cut boards to desired length
- Wood Screws
- Machine screws (bolts)
- Nuts
- Washers
- Screwdriver or drill and drill bits
- Chain or other means of hanging the Hammock Hide



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### **Instructions (measurements are for size shown in photos):**

#### **Step 1**

Cut 2"x4" boards and attach together with screws to create a 2.5'x2.5' square frame.

#### **Step 2**

Lay out fire hose to calculate how many pieces will be needed (number may vary depending on the width of fire hose used). For the pictured Hammock Hide, a combination of 3" wide and 5" wide fire hose was used as follows:

- (A) Four (4) strips of 3" wide fire hose each 72" long
- (B) Six (6) strips of 5" wide fire hose each 102.5" long
- (C) Six (6) strips 5" wide fire hose each 77" long

#### **Step 3**

Attach (C) fire hose strips vertically across the wood frame, wrapping the fire hose around and attaching it to the wood frame using washers and screws, screwing it directly into the wood. The excess hose draping over the other side will make the "hide" panels on the end. On the side with the draping hose pieces, secure the hose strip to the wooden frame using washers and screws.

#### **Step 4**

From left to right, weave (B) fire hose strips horizontally through (C) strips. This will leave long excess pieces on the right side. Create loops with this excess hose by draping them under the frame, then back up to the starting point on the left side. Where the ends meet, attach the hose directly to the frame using washers and screws.

#### **Step 5**

Weave (A) fire hose strips vertically all the way down the loop you created on the previous step. Sandwich the edges with 2 additional strips of the fire hose to hide all of the cut edges. Attach all of the fire hose ends inside of your sandwich strips using bolts, washers, and lock nuts.

#### **Step 6**

Cut off leftover (C) fire hose pieces draping over the side so that they are even with your hanging area. These flaps create a hide area on one side of the hanging Hammock Hide, while also allowing the animal to peek through if they choose to do so.



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