



Fire Hose/Container Feeder Including Goal-Oriented Enrichment Notes

With permission, adapted from instructions and photos submitted by Kara Johnson

The fire hose/container feeder in these instructions use Talenti containers (because it's not an ice cream obsession if you're eating it for enrichment...).





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Goal-Oriented Enrichment Notes (from Kara Johnson)

I was looking to prolong foraging behaviors and cognitively challenge the monks. This feeder has been SO FUN for our monkeys. Animals have to figure out where the cup they want is and reach through the fire hose to get the goodies inside! We have to make it a little easier for the lemurs, but still a good challenge. I didn't tighten the containers enough the first time and our spider monkeys just unscrewed them and got their treats.. lesson learned. But it's great to watch the monkeys peer around and figure out which container they're aiming for and then forage away. Containers can also be filled with ice blocks with the food on the bottom so animals have to wait for the ice to melt to get their treats (so a super cheap timed feeder). When we use ice blocks in the summer, our female guenon likes to lick the cold water as it drips out, which was an added and unexpected bonus behavior.

Species

Small mammals such as spider monkeys, lesser spot-nosed guenons, and lemurs.

Safety Concerns

- † Be aware of entrapment issues. Ensure that the holes in the containers are large enough for a full hand to come back out. Secure the fire hose to the lids so that there is not a gap for arms or other body parts to get stuck inside. The feeder can be installed on the outside of the mesh to further reduce entrapment risk.
- † Smooth edges of lids after cutting if animals could be injured by sharp or rough edges.
- † Check all connections and the overall device frequently for damage.
- † As always, check with the veterinarians, curators, and superiors to be sure that fastening method and other aspects of this EED are approved and appropriate for the species of animal and individual animals that you intend to have access to it.

Items needed

- † **Fire hose** (length of desired feeder x 2) Thick plastic or similar material can also be used.
- † **Fasteners** (nuts and bolts, thread, cable ties, etc.) Number determined by length and number of containers. Fasteners will be needed for 3 purposes: (1) to attached lids to fire hose, (2) to attach fire hose pieces to each other, (3) to attach feeder to enclosure.
- † **Plastic or other sturdy, non-glass containers with treaded plastic lids.** These instructions use Talenti containers. Number will determine length of feeder.
- † **Tool to cut fire hose and lids.**
- † **Tool to make hole in lids and fire hose for fasteners.**
- † **File or sandpaper** to smooth edges of lids.



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Instructions

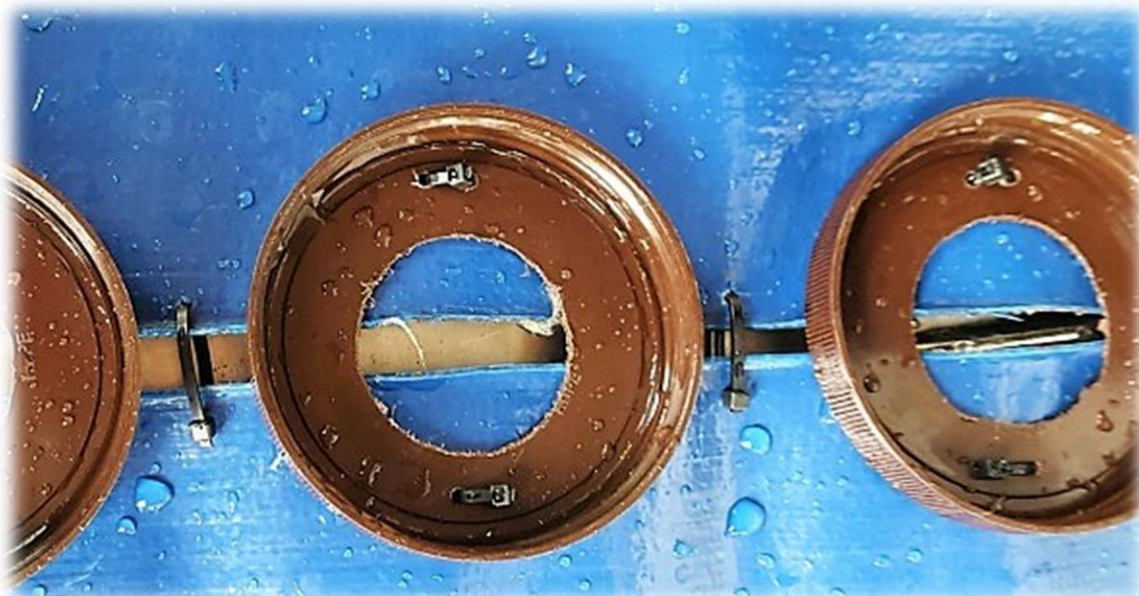
STEP 1. Cut a hand-sized hole in the center of each lid. File edges of holes if they are sharp.

STEP 2. Make holes in lids and fasten two strips of fire hose with the seam running down the center of the hole in the lid. (cable ties are used in the feeder used in these instructions)

*Alternative: Use one wide strip of fire hose and cut hand-size hole in fire hose that matches up with the hand sized hole in each lid.



STEP 3. Connect two strips of fire hose to each other.



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STEP 4. Add hooks, carabiners, or other hardware to easily attach and remove feeder from exhibit.



STEP 5. Fill containers with diet items and screw lids onto containers. Containers can also be filled with ice blocks with the food on the bottom so animals have to wait for the ice to melt to get their treats (so a super cheap timed feeder).

STEP 6. Hang feeder on the outside of enclosure giving animals access to holes in lids.