
EVZOO RESEARCH

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OUTLINE

- Introduction
 - Investigating animal cognition & welfare
- Current Research:
 - Welfare & enrichment research
 - Touchscreen experiments





WELFARE & ENRICHMENT

- ❖ 12 year old male white-handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*)
- ❖ Independent Studies Student (CUE)
- ✓ Literature review on primate enrichment in zoos
- ✓ Observations to investigate behavioural changes dependent on:
 - Habitat design
 - Visitor presence
 - Natural Enrichment
 - Artificial Enrichment
 - Available Technology
 - Weather
 - Noise



- Future directions: Employing novel cognitive enrichment



TOUCHSCREEN EXPERIMENT

	Global				Local	
Target letter 'P'	F	F	T	T	HHHHH	HHHHH
	F	F	T	T	H	H
	FFFFF	TTTTT			HHHH	H
	F	F	T	T	H	H
	F	F	T	T	H	H

□ Research Question:

How does an animal perceive and prioritize information??

❖ *Local/Global Processing Bias*
(Navon, 1977)

- Mapping evolutionary & ecological influences





FINAL NOTES

- Edmonton Valley Zoo's commitment:
 - ✓ Their animals
 - ✓ Scientific progress
 - ✓ Conservation efforts

- High Return on Tax Levy Investment:
 - ❑ Highly-qualified personnel
 - ❑ Enriched diets
 - ❑ Species-appropriate habitats & upgrades
 - ❑ Cognitive enrichment
 - ❑ Rehabilitation & reintroduction programs





THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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