

THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF CAPTIVE TUFTED CAPUCHIN MONKEYS (*CEBUS APELLA*)

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The behavioural changes of six old, previously single housed and now group housed, laboratory tufted capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*), provided with different forms of environmental enrichment, were studied. The behaviour of the monkeys was scrutinized during a baseline period followed by three observation periods with different types and combinations of environmental enrichment. Each period lasted five days with an interval of six days between them. During the first enrichment period, Buster[®] Cubes and wood cylinders with drilled holes filled with gum arabic were provided in order to stimulate these monkeys' natural great manipulative skills, high intelligence and species-specific tool-using capabilities. During the second enrichment period, they were provided a deep litter of bark shavings to stimulate their natural foraging behaviour. During the third enrichment period, a combination of the Buster[®] Cubes, wood cylinders and the bark shavings from the two previous enrichment periods were provided. The study demonstrated that when the tufted capuchin monkeys were given the opportunity to perform natural species-specific behaviour, they engaged in these activities and exhibited behavioural profiles that resembled their natural counterparts, indicating improved psychological well-being. Group housing combined with environmental enrichment can therefore be an efficient way of improving the welfare of old, previously single caged, laboratory tufted capuchin monkeys.

Keywords: Behaviour, Enrichment, *Cebus apella*, welfare