

Question:

Institution

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo
San Diego Wild Animal Park

Are your porcupines housed primarily indoors?

Response

No, outdoors with shelter
No.

Question:

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Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo
San Diego Wild Animal Park

What are the dimensions of your indoor exhibit?

Response

NA

Question:

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Is there shifting capability?

Response

NA

Question:

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Please describe the general design of your indoor exhibit?

Response

NA

Question:

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What type of substrate do you use in your porcupine exhibit?

Response

NA
Compacted dirt and wood chips.

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What cage furniture do you use?

Response

NA
Culvert pipes, hollowed stumps, logs, secured branches @ a variety of heights in which we attach fresh cut pine regularly.

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What type of heating and ventilation system do you use?

Response

NA
None.

Question:

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What is the average temperature range of your indoor exhibit?

Response

NA

Question:

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Is the exhibit on a light cycle?

Response

NA
No.

Question:

If so, what is the day/night cycle?

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Response

NA

Question:**Institution**

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Do your porcupines have an outdoor exhibit?**Response**

Yes, primary exhibit
Yes.

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Do you have temperature restrictions for them to be outside?**Response**

No. If the weather conditions get too extreme, we bring him into holding (usually just a kennel crate). This is done primarily for his safety or to prevent escape from the exhibit.

No.

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If so, what are your temperature guidelines?**Response**

NA

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Do you have an indoor holding area?**Response**

Yes, the new female is currently in the holding yard/shelter. It's not really "indoor", but is the holding space and potential introduction space.

No.

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What is the dimension of your indoor holding space?**Response**

The yard is 18' x 12.5'.

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Describe your indoor holding space (construction, layout, etc)**Response**

The yard is shaded. Fenced with chain link, natural soil substrate. A small 4' x 4' shelter w/door is in the yard.

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What type of heating and ventilation does your holding area have?**Response**

No heating, no additional ventilation provided.

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What are the dimensions of your outdoor exhibit?**Response**

It is an irregular oval, roughly 30' x 14'.

front faces east @ 15'5" wide, rear to the west @ 17'incl a 5' square double entry keeper door, the south is 25'long, north side @ 28' long. Height @ 18'.

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Please describe your outdoor exhibit.
Response

Solid walls wrap around approx. 1/4 in the rear. Public Plexiglas window viewing comprises 3/4 of the exhibit perimeter wall.. Guests can lean over the top of the windows, but cannot touch the porcupine. Windows are about 5' high. The exhibit is natur

Rectangular in shape, constructed of 1/2" mesh fencing stabilized by vertical cables; with both artificial tunnels and prairie dog made tunnels, some of which lead to a glass window viewing area.

Question:
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Are your porcupines part of a mixed species exhibit?
Response

No

Yes.

Question:
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If so, what species are they mixed with?
Response

1.7 Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs

Question:
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San Diego Wild Animal Park

Mixed Species / Comments:
Response

Porcupines typically up and foraging in the early am while the prairie dogs are up sunning and foraging in the afternoon.

Question:
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Are your porcupines singly housed?
Response

We have exhibited only a single male since 1988. However, we received a female on 4/24/03 who we hope to introduce to our male at the appropriate time..

No.

Question:
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If not, how many animals are housed together?
Response

They haven't been introduced yet.

1.2

Question:
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Please describe any concerns or issues you may have regarding introductions between conspecifics.
Response

The male is 14 years old and has been housed alone since 1989. The female was housed singly at LPZ. She is 8 yrs. Compatibility issues mainly are a concern for us. We would like input on how to introduce the pair.

Question:
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Do you separate animals at night?
Response

NA as of right now. 1.1 haven't been intro'd yet.

No.

Question:
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Please describe your porcupine diet:
Response

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

56g sweet potato, 60g greens, 44g apple, 12 Browse or Monkey Chow biscuits daily.

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Diet for one: items are raw; offered daily: 18g gorilla size leafeater biscuit, 1/2 cup high fiber 1/2" herbivore pellet, 2-1" slices corn on cob. Offered 3 days: either 35 gr carrot or 35 gr yam 7th day 35gr variable root. 84 gr rotated between celery,

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Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

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How is the diet presented?

Response

Scattered throughout the exhibit to promote activity levels while browsing.

Cut up, approx 1-2" pieces, greens remain whole; scattered about and stashed in stumps, etc; pellet in dishes, leafeater often offered by hand.

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How many times per day are the animals fed?

Response

Twice

Once, usually early to mid morning.

Question:

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How are your porcupines restrained for medical procedures?

Response

If the procedure is minimal, he is placed in a barrel or crate and visually checked. He is immobilized for PE, x-rays & injections/vaccinations.

Chamber induce with isoflurane; bag over kennel, once calm mask them down hand grabbing with heavy gloves.

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If you need to immobilize the animals, what drugs have you used and how would you describe their effectiveness:

Response

The vet staff occasionally uses inhalant gas (Isofluran). Ketamine is preferred and the porcupine is taken to the hospital for the exam.

Isoflurane; very effective.

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During an immobilization what, if any, problems have you seen?

Response

None

Difficult to intubate.

Question:

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What routine medical procedures do you perform on your porcupines?

Response

Annual physical exam includes checking heart & lungs, palpate abdomen, vaccinations, fecal, trim teeth (as needed), fur & quill condition and blood drawn every other year due to male's age.

Fecal flotation, visual exams, quarterly anthelmintics.

Question:

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What vaccinations do you use?

Response

Rabies yearly, Tetanus every other year.

None.

Question:

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What health concerns do you have that are specific to porcupines?

Response

The advanced age of our male (14 yrs.) and general geriatric concerns. He has experienced pneumonia, but has been treated successfully. The female has been chronically lactating while at LPZ. We will monitor that situation.

Ectoparasites, intestinal parasites, dental disease, neoplasia, enteric pathogens, and protozoa (Giardia).

Question:

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Have you successfully bred this species at your institution?

Response

No, haven't attempted yet.

Yes, 1.1 births.

Question:

Institution

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

Do you keep the sexes together at all times?

Response

No

Yes.

Question:

Institution

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Do you introduce the sexes for breeding?

Response

We plan to in the future.

Question:

Institution

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

San Diego Wild Animal Park

If you introduce the sexes for breeding, please describe your introduction protocol:

Response

We'll remove the male from his exhibit and intro him to the female in her holding area. This is an outdoor, off-exhibit yard. We'll do this during her cycle. He'll remain with her during the day; they will be separated at night. The primary exhibit

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If they remain together, have you seen any aggression by either adult towards the newborns?

Response

NA

No.

Question:

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

Do you make any special preparations for the birth?

Response

NA yet.

Yes.

Question:

Institution

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If yes, what are they?

Response

NA

Offered a "nest box" area consisting of 2 logs and bermuda hay, allowing the female to select her favorite log.

Question:

Institution

How long do you leave the offspring with the mother before moving them?

Response

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NA
They have remained together.

Question:

How long have you been able to keep the offspring with the parents?

Institution

Response

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NA
As stated in 46, last birth March '02. First offspring died @ approx 4 months of age.

Question:

What concerns do you have when housing the group together?

Institution

Response

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We'll be concerned about aggression between adults and adult to offspring. Also we'll watch behaviors during feedings.
Providing adequate and ample climbing spaces and shelters.

Question:

Have you ever hand to pull offspring for any reason?

Institution

Response

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

NA
No.

Question:

Have you hand reared offspring?

Institution

Response

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo
San Diego Wild Animal Park

NA
No.

Question:

If yes, please describe your protocol (formula used, number of feedings, when weaned, etc.).

Institution

Response

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NA

Question:

Have you used any type of contraception for your porcupines?

Institution

Response

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

NA
Yes.

Question:

If yes, what have you used and was it successful?

Institution

Response

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NA
Our male had a vasectomy on 31 July 02 and it appears to have been successful.

Question:

Are any of your porcupines used for educational purposes or public demonstrations?

Institution

Response

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

No
No.

Question:

If yes, how is the porcupine used?

Institution

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Response

NA

Question:**Institution**

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Do you consider it a successful outreach animal?**Response**

NA

Question:**Institution**

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What behaviors have you trained?**Response**

None

Question:**Institution**

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San Diego Wild Animal Park

If your porcupines are not used for demonstrations, have you trained any husbandry behaviors?**Response**

No

Yes.

Question:**Institution**

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

If yes, what behaviors have you trained?**Response**

Although the male is not formally trained, he is very cooperative. He enters a crate on presentation of crate, stands on a scale. The female just arrived 4/24/03, so we haven't worked with her yet. The LPZ ADT states she is crate trained and can be han

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Crate training for movement and weight collection, sit-up presentation for visual inspections. Go to "mark", to station.

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Do you have any plans for future training ?**Response**

No

Time constraints do not allow at this time.

Question:**Institution**

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

What behaviors would you most like to train?**Response**

If we did training, it would involve behaviors assisting with exams or husbandry.

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Question:**Institution**

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Do you provide your porcupines with environmental enrichment?**Response**

Yes

Yes.

Question:**Institution**

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

If yes, please list what you use for enrichment and if possible comment on the success of the items:**Response**

Novel food items, food in boxes and bags.

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Pine and other browse for diet and enrichment, the prairie dogs love it as well, their "cage furniture", laying on top of frozen pvc tubes in hot weather, hosing down the exhibit for 'cooler' ground, they appear to get a nice draft of air from the prairi

Question:

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Have you ever shipped a porcupine?

Response

No
No.

Question:

Institution

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If yes, please describe your shipping crate (dimensions, construction, etc.)

Response

NA

Question:

Institution

Zoo New England/Franklin Park Zoo

San Diego Wild Animal Park

Comments or ideas to include in the Husbandry Standards:

Response

This is very timely for us! We are very anxious to see the results of the survey asap.

As noted in 48, providing ample and adequate climbing spaces and shelters along with fresh pine browse, logs and stumps.