



DATE: TBD - early spring 2014

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Department of Veterinary Sciences (DVS), **Active Environments**, and Yerkes National Primate Research Center are once again offering our popular **Primate Training and Enrichment Workshop (PTEW)**. This highly successful, "hands-on" workshop will be held at the Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research campus in Bastrop, Texas. The workshop is designed to develop skills in laboratory primate caregivers and zoo primate keepers that will improve their ability to appropriately manage the behavior of the primates in their care. Managers, veterinarians, curators, investigators, inspectors, etc. are also invited to attend. Attendance is limited to 30 participants.

The **four-and-a-half-day** Workshop will emphasize two areas of concentrated study: 1) environmental enrichment and 2) positive reinforcement training. We will focus on a problem-solving approach, addressing the issues/problems that you have identified in your pre-workshop questionnaires.

Enrichment instruction will include lectures, discussion and "hands-on" activities to explore the elements of designing, implementing and evaluating an enrichment program. With the historical contexts of environmental enrichment for primates as background, differences between the behavior of primates in the wild and in captivity will be discussed as many attempts to improve captive environments are designed to elicit more naturalistic behavior. Applications of a variety of enrichment techniques will be demonstrated. Factors such as obtaining materials, cost, sanitation, maintenance of devices and safety will be covered. Participants will observe chimpanzees and rhesus, squirrel and owl monkeys using various types of enrichment, and will design, build and evaluate an enrichment device. Finally, participants will begin to determine relevant enrichment options for their facility that will prepare them to meet institutional goals and satisfy regulatory requirements.

The training portion of the workshop will assist participants in developing basic training skills and then applying those skills in their own program. This will include a combination of lecture, discussion, demonstration and group participation activities. The theory and techniques of operant conditioning will be presented, focusing on the use of positive reinforcement techniques to encourage the voluntary cooperation of primates in husbandry, medical, and research procedures. We will explore techniques such as socialization training, desensitization and husbandry training. To augment these discussions, participants will observe training sessions with resident primates where various techniques will be demonstrated. Finally, participants will begin to develop training plans for specific situations in their own facility.

We believe this to be a workshop that is timely, practical and informative. For further information check out our website: www.ptew.org