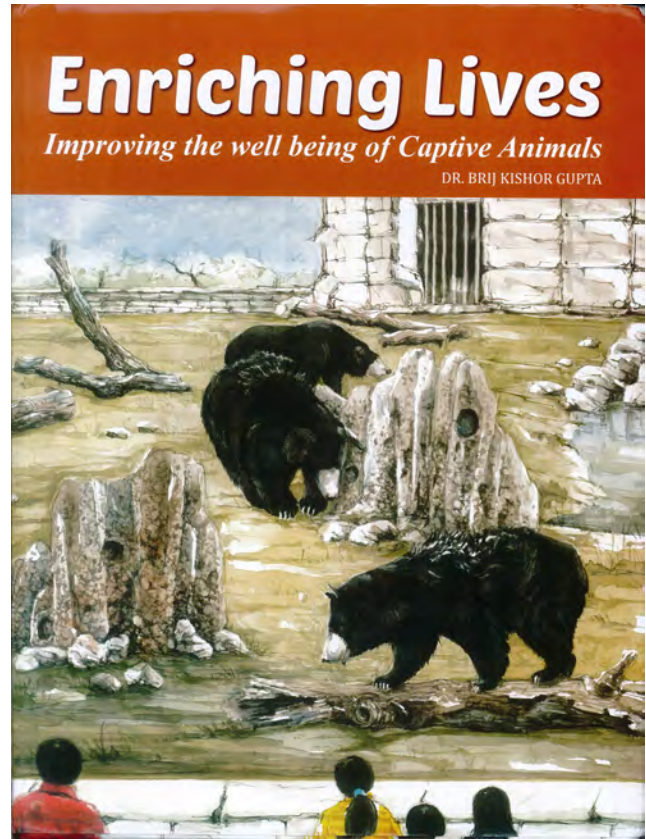


## Enriching Lives - Improving the well being of Captive Animals - Dr. Brij Kishor Gupta

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'Enriching Lives' by Dr. Brij Kishor Gupta is an excellent publication and very timely as the zoo community and others who are keeping wild animals have no such comprehensive book so far other than the one published by the Wildlife Institute of India. The author has provided practical tips for environment enrichment for most groups of species with ample illustrations and photographs. The book has also tried to suggest easily available and inexpensive materials to see that the animals feel at home in a very limited space of the zoo or captive animal facilities like rescue centers without looking too much out of place and blend well with the architecture and landscape of modern enclosures. When used in different zoos in India and abroad this will certainly help the animals to exhibit their natural trait instead of stereo-typed behaviour. The suggested methods shall make the animals happy and improve their quality of life and longevity. However some materials and equipments which are artificial in nature and stand out against the near natural back drop and placement of meat in gunny bags and other artificial artifacts that may be ingested by the animals should have been avoided. In case of nocturnal animals, pangolins and small reptiles some provision of sunlight for a part of the day or on a part of enclosure can be a great enrichment. For the animals of higher reaches exhibited in hill zoos the designing of exhibit should take the aspect of the site in to consideration for maximum sunlight during winter months. The book contains enrichment ideas for the animal houses (night shelters)



too besides the safety considerations while providing different types of enrichments. Chapter-I is quite informative and can help managers to decide on their own enrichment ideas. The author has been able to put together many relevant references which can stimulate many enrichment ideas other than those indicated in this book. Most photographs used in the book are from Indian zoos and hence certain good enrichment practices are already in use and if they are replicated in other places with suitable modification they can certainly help improve the quality of life of most zoo animals. Overall it is an excellent book and very useful publication for the zoos in India.