Fire Hose Cube Instructions
Concept shown to Hose2Habitat by Luke Siberry

General Description: The fire hose cube is an extremely versatile enrichment item. In its simplest form, it is made of three strips of fire hose of equal length. A single cube can be combined with other enrichment, usually other cubes, to make an endless array of enrichment items.

Species: Most species of mammals and many birds.

Uses: Adapting the size, type of fire hose, number of cubes, and other factors as appropriate, cubes may be used for playing, rubbing, grazing, browsing, and much more.

Known Safety Concerns: Entrapment in the gaps or holes drilled in the cubes. Ingestion of fire hose.

Items Needed:
Fire hose
Tool to cut fire hose
Materials to connect the fire hose. Some options are:
- Hardware: Bolts (3 for narrow fire hose; 6 for wide fire hose; 1.5” x 0.25”; size/amount depend on width of fire) Lock nuts (one for each bolt) Fender washers (twice the number of bolts as 2 will be used with each bolt)
- Zip ties
- Thread

Drill and drill bits (including hole bit if holes will be drilled in the cube) or other method to put holes in fire hose for connectors
Wrench and screw driver (if using hardware to connect fire hose)
Chain for hanging (optional)
Measuring device
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STEP 1. Determine the length of fire hose strips you will need. To do this, measure the width of the fire hose you will use. Use the formula \( W + 4 + 2 \), which is the width of the fire hose times 4 (representing the 4 sides of the cube each strip will make), plus 4" (1" of extra fire hose for each of the 4 corners; the corners cannot be folded on a sharp angle so they add to the amount of fire hose needed. 1" is an estimate. If the fire hose is very thin and bendable, it may take less. If the fire hose is very thick or hard to bend, it may take more.) + 2" (1" at each end of the strip to allow overlap to connect the ends to each other to form a loop. As with the corners, this is an estimate.) These instructions show 3" wide fire hose. So the formula is 3"x 4 + 4" + 2" = 18"

STEP 2. Cut 3 pieces of fire hose each the length determined by the formula.

STEP 3. Make a hole about 1" from each end of the 3 strips of fire hose.
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STEP 4. Attach the ends of 2 of the 3 strips of fire hose. (These instructions use hardware: 2 washers, 1 bolt, and 1 nut for each strip.)

STEP 5. Trim any excess from each end and tuck one fire hose loop into the other as shown below.

STEP 6. Weave the third strip in and around the other two strips as shown below, being sure to turn the inside loops so the hardware on those two strips is “hidden” or covered by the other strips.
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STEP 7. Connect the ends of the third strip of fire hose, as shown.

STEP 8. Trim any excess fire hose and, if desired, trim corners off the corners to help with the next step.

STEP 9. Pull, push, and tug the end of the fire hose with the exposed hardware around to “hide” it under one of the other loops of fire hose. This is usually the most difficult and time-consuming part of making a cube. It takes time and patience, but does get considerably easier with experience.
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Holes can be drilled in cubes; then put treats in them for a fun feeder. Cubes can also be connected to form many different types of enrichment.

Luke Siberry (www.FireHoseCubed.com) insists that his wonderful large animal fire hose creations are “just a bunch of cubes put together”.

[Images of Fire Hose Cube projects and instructions]