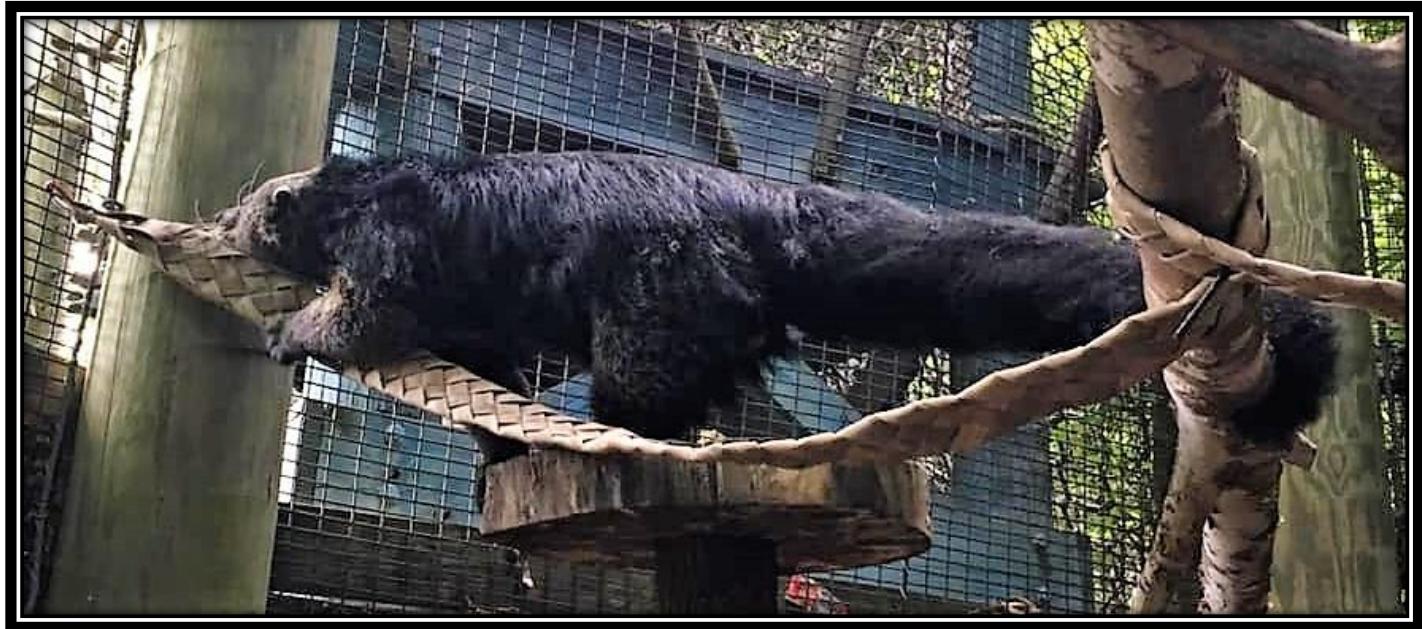




## 5 Strand Braid Instructions

Inspired by Rachel McKee of Mesker Park Zoo



**General Description:** The 5 Strand Braid can be used as a hammock, bridge, forage feeder, browser, and possibly for other enrichment purposes.

As always, check with your vets and others appropriate people to be sure the enrichment you make is safe for the animals who will have access to it and suitable for the exhibit where it will be located.

### Instructions

**STEP 1.** Cut fire hose into 5 pieces of approximately equal length.

**STEP 2.** Put a hole in the top of each piece and connect the pieces together with hardware, cable ties, by sewing them, etc.





## 5 Strand Braid Instructions

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**STEP 3.** For these instructions, the fire hose pieces will be referred to as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, from left to right. You will see the following pattern emerge: 1 becomes 3, 5 becomes 3; 1 becomes 3, 5 becomes 3, over and over until the end of the fire hose is reached. So...

1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3, as shown below.



**STEP 4.** Again, 1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3 as shown below.





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**STEP 5.** Again, 1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3 as shown below. You will also see a pattern at the bottom of the pieces of hose that have not yet been braided: 3 strips on the right and 2 on the left; then 3 strips on the left and 2 strips on the right.



**STEP 6.** Again, 1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3 as shown below.





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**STEP 7.** Again, 1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3 as shown below. Yes, we keep repeating ourselves, because the braid is just the same 2 steps over and over.



**STEP 8.** Again, 1 goes over 2 and under 3. Then 5 goes over 4 and under 3. And again, as shown below.





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**STEP 9.** When you reach the end of the fire hose pieces, connect them together to keep the braid from unraveling. All pieces should be connected to at least one other piece. One of the simplest ways is to connect all 5 pieces together as they are connected at the beginning of the braid as shown on the right and below.





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**STEP 10.** Trim any excess off of the fire hose pieces.

