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## Contact information:

Åsa Rosandher

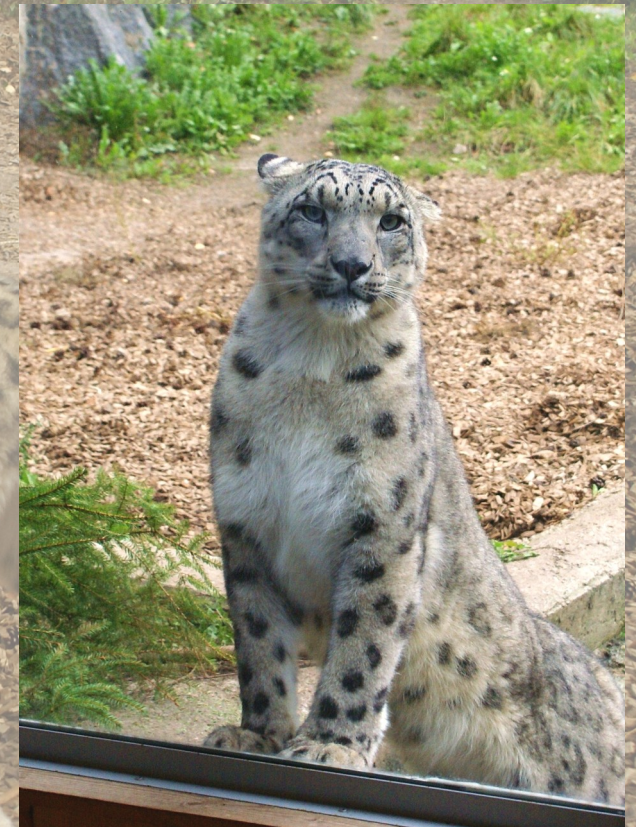
Telephone: 013-138505

Mobile phone: 0730-727220

E-mail: asa\_rosandher@hotmail.com

## Olfactory Enrichment for Captive Snow Leopards (*Uncia uncia*)

By Åsa Rosandher



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Supervisors: Prof. Matthias Laska  
Prof. Mats Amundin



## Aim and Method

**The aim of this study was to assess the effect of odors and objects as environmental enrichment for two captive snow leopards.**

I used five different odors (lavender, catnip, cumin, lemon balm and cinnamon) and four types of objects (balls, tennis balls, logs and ropes) to enrich the environment of snow leopards at Kolmården Wildlife Park.

On every testing day the snow leopards got access to one odorized and one non-odorized enrichment object. I recorded the behavior of the snow leopards by tak-



## Result

There were marked differences in how often the snow leopards interacted with the different objects and odors.

The two snow leopards interacted most often with **the balls** and second most often with **the ropes**.

The odors that they interacted most often with was **cinnamon and lavender**.

**The snow leopards interacted more often with odorized than with non-odorized toys.**

## Conclusion

The snow leopards were interested in interacting with both objects and odors. The results indicate that some objects and odors are more effective as enrichment for these animals than others.

The fact that the snow leopards interacted more often with odorized than non-odorized objects indicate that olfactory enrichment is effective.

The objects allowed the snow leopards to perform new, as well as species specific, behaviors, which increases their welfare.

## Outlook

There are numerous objects and odors that can be tested in order to increase the welfare of the two captive snow leopards.

By combining familiar objects with novel odors and vice versa, perhaps the effect of the environmental enrichment can be prolonged.