



Care For Us

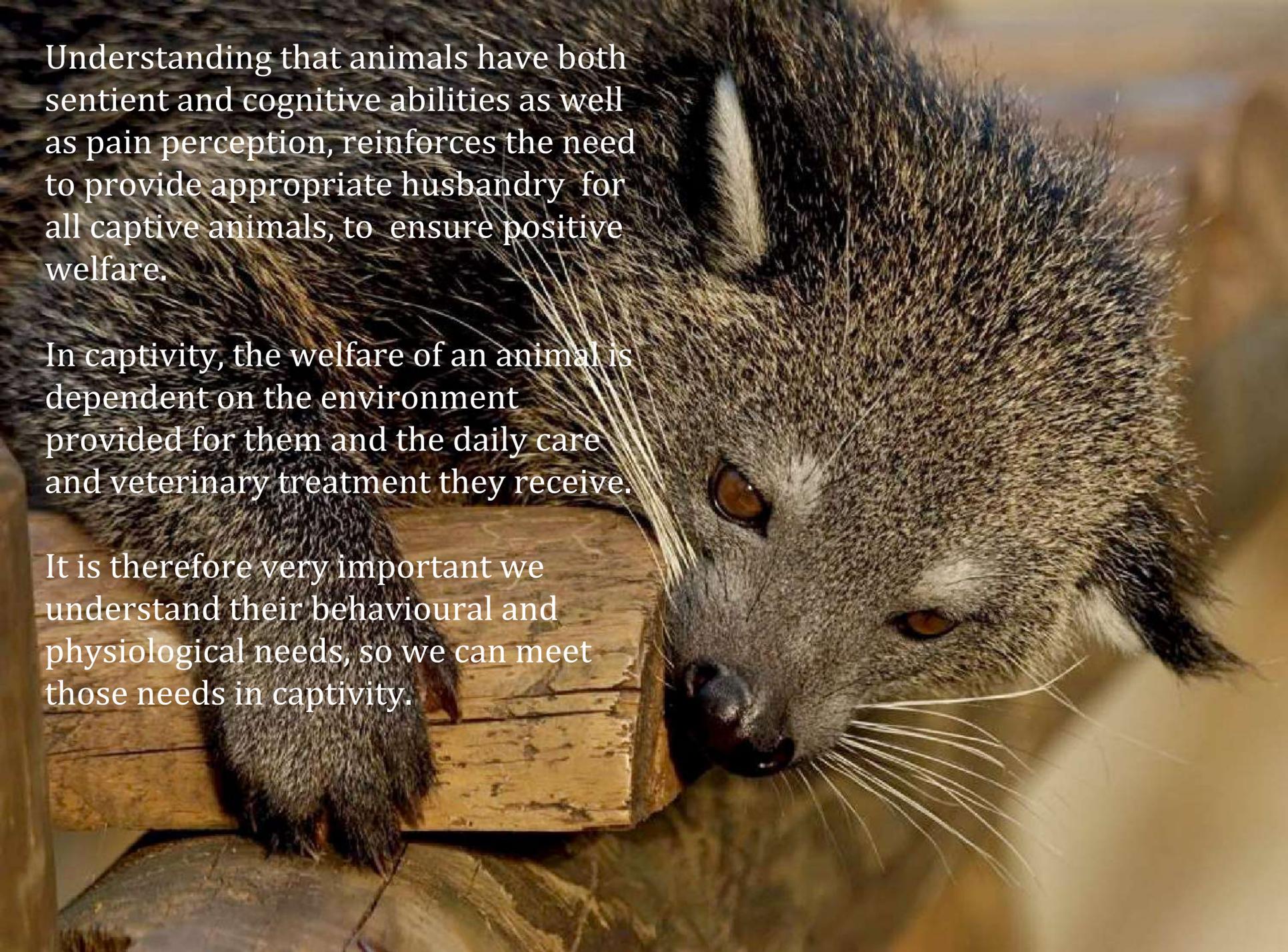
Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*)



Animal Welfare

Animal welfare refers to an animal's state or feelings. An animal's welfare state can be positive, neutral or negative. An animal's welfare has the potential to differ on a daily basis. When an animal's needs - nutritional, behavioural, health and environmental - are met, they will have positive welfare.

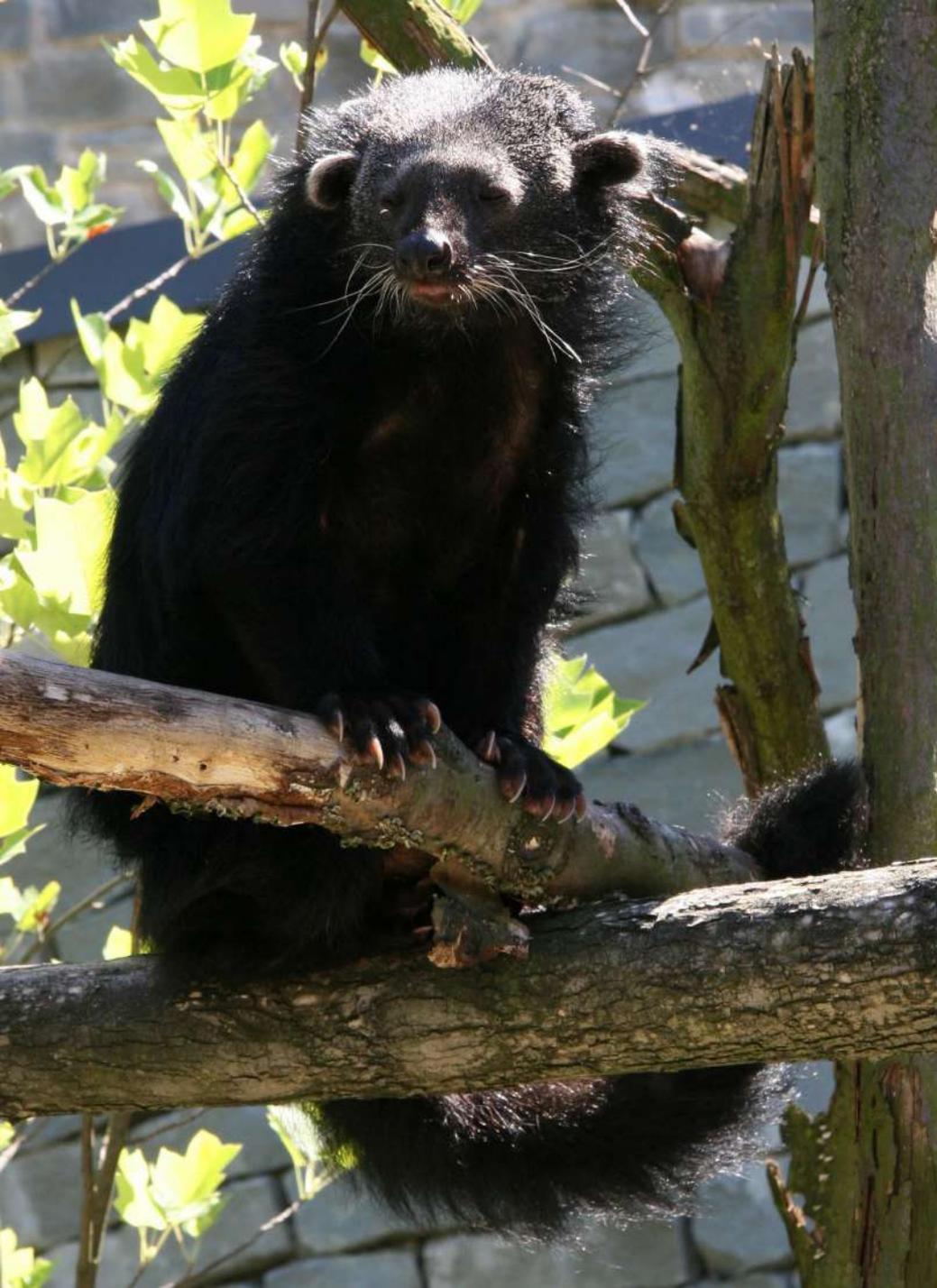
A good life in captivity might be one where animals can consistently experience good welfare - throughout their entire life.

A close-up photograph of a grey and black cat with long white whiskers, resting its head on a wooden surface. The cat's eyes are a warm brown color, and its fur is thick and textured. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown.

Understanding that animals have both sentient and cognitive abilities as well as pain perception, reinforces the need to provide appropriate husbandry for all captive animals, to ensure positive welfare.

In captivity, the welfare of an animal is dependent on the environment provided for them and the daily care and veterinary treatment they receive.

It is therefore very important we understand their behavioural and physiological needs, so we can meet those needs in captivity.



The binturong, also known as the bearcat, belongs to the Viverridae family, an ancient group of small to medium-sized mammals found only in Afro-Eurasia.

They live in the dense tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia. Binturong smell like buttered popcorn due to their scent glands, which are situated just under the tail.

The binturong has been assessed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, because of a declining population trend that is estimated at more than 30 per cent over the last three decades. The main threats to binturongs are habitat destruction, hunting, and the illegal wildlife trade.

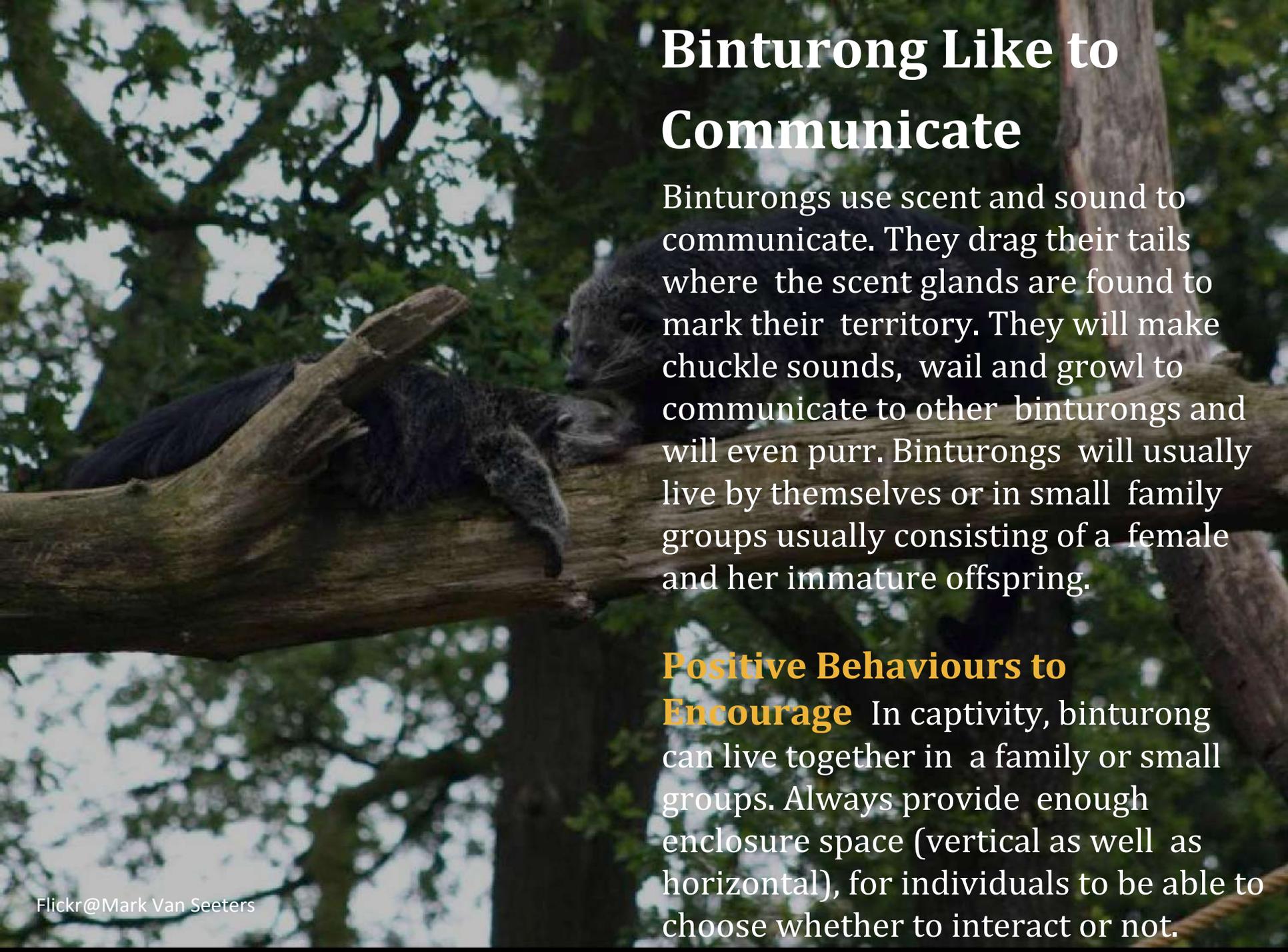
Binturongs Like Food

Binturongs are in the order Carnivora, but they actually eat a lot of fruit. However, they are opportunistic and will also eat carrion, eggs, plant shoots and leaves. They are also good hunters so feed on small invertebrates, fish, birds and small mammals when possible.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

In captivity, ensure you provide a varied diet with lots of choices. A variety of fruits and vegetables with a fortified meat-based carnivore diet can be offered. Ensure that food is scattered around the enclosure to encourage scavenging and foraging behaviours.



A photograph of two binturongs (bearcats) resting on a thick, horizontal tree branch. The binturongs are dark brown or black with lighter, greyish fur on their faces and chests. They are positioned one behind the other, both looking towards the right. The background is a dense forest of green trees, slightly out of focus. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

Binturong Like to Communicate

Binturongs use scent and sound to communicate. They drag their tails where the scent glands are found to mark their territory. They will make chuckle sounds, wail and growl to communicate to other binturongs and will even purr. Binturongs will usually live by themselves or in small family groups usually consisting of a female and her immature offspring.

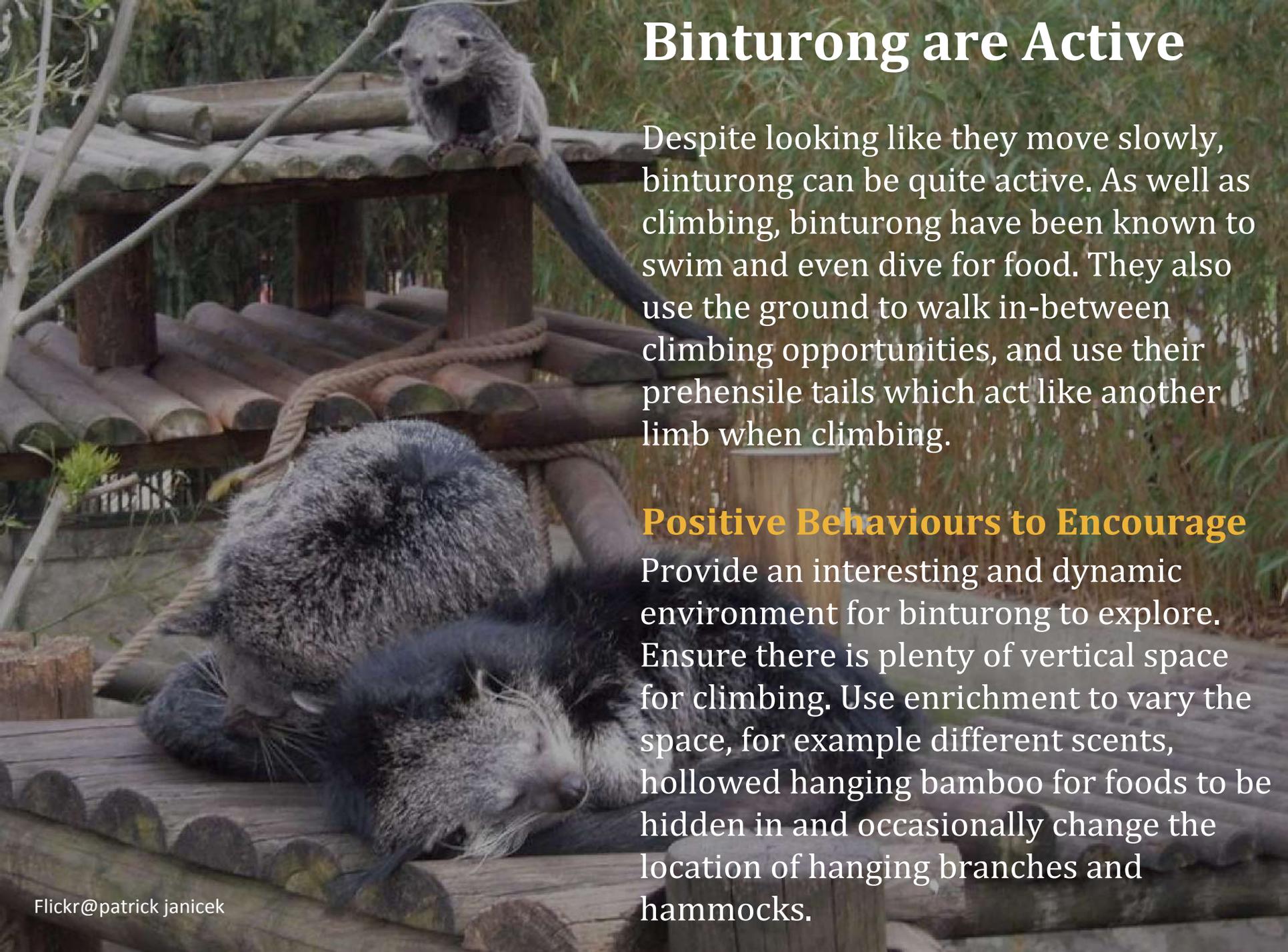
Positive Behaviours to Encourage In captivity, binturong can live together in a family or small groups. Always provide enough enclosure space (vertical as well as horizontal), for individuals to be able to choose whether to interact or not.

Binturong Like to Climb

Binturong are mostly arboreal, spending their time high up at the top of tall trees. They are excellent climbers, aided by strong feet with semi-retractable claws. Their hind legs can rotate backwards so their claws still have a good grip when climbing down a tree head-first. They will sleep high up in tree branches, curled up.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Provide an enclosure that allows for arboreal movement throughout the whole of the space. It should have lots of different climbing options, multiple trees, branches and platforms for the binturong to choose from and to hide in.

A photograph of two binturongs in a naturalistic enclosure. One binturong is perched on the edge of a wooden platform made of logs, looking towards the camera. Its long tail is draped over the side. Below it, another binturong is resting on a lower wooden level, its head tucked down. The background shows lush green foliage and more wooden structures.

Binturong are Active

Despite looking like they move slowly, binturong can be quite active. As well as climbing, binturong have been known to swim and even dive for food. They also use the ground to walk in-between climbing opportunities, and use their prehensile tails which act like another limb when climbing.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Provide an interesting and dynamic environment for binturong to explore. Ensure there is plenty of vertical space for climbing. Use enrichment to vary the space, for example different scents, hollowed hanging bamboo for foods to be hidden in and occasionally change the location of hanging branches and hammocks.

Binturong Are Nocturnal

Binturongs are primarily nocturnal, sleeping during the day and enjoying basking in the sun. They have no known predators other than humans.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Ensure your enclosure allows the binturong the opportunity to carry out its active night habits and resting during the day. Provide them with outdoor space during the night-time and rest space during the day. Do not have the enclosure in a loud, noisy area and inform visitors about the nocturnal habits of the binturong.



Binturong Reproduction

The female binturong is one of only a few mammals that can experience delayed implantation, which allows her to time the birth of her young for when there are good environmental conditions. This means that mating can take place at any time of the year. Males have been known to stay with the female after birth.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Encourage positive social interactions between binturong, but only allow breeding if your enclosure can provide enough space for the adults and offspring. Always ensure that the female has a quiet area for her and her young.



Binturong Enjoy ...

Communicating and interacting, sleeping and basking in the sunshine and eating!

In captivity we should always try and replicate their natural and normal behaviours so they are happy and healthy throughout their lives.

