

# Animal Training Plan Approval Form San Francisco Zoo

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Department - **Primates** Species - **Chimpanzee**

Animal name – **Minnie** Accession number \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior to train or modify – **ultrasound/ stomach**

Reinforcers – **approved specialty food items and juice**

Trainer/Mentor \_ **Amy/ Debbie**

Assistant trainers\_ **Sarah**

Curatorial approval\_ **Corinne**

Vet approval, or Director of Training (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Safety concerns if any –

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ Completion date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Training Goal (Please describe the completed behavior and its criteria.**

**Present her stomach to the mesh and allow ultrasound exam.**

**Shaping Plan Approximations (List the training steps in sequential order).**

- 1. Show Minnie the squirt bottle or tall cup. When she offers a sitting position with her hands holding the mesh tell her “good” and reinforce her with juice. Bridge her with the clicker and drop a reinforcer in the food chute.**
- 2. Approach her with the squirt bottle or cup. When she sits up holding the mesh say “Minnie hands up” “good” give her some juice, bridge with the clicker and give a reinforcer in the food chute.**
- 3. Approach with the juice say “Minnie Hands up” as you approach and before her hands go up if possible. When she sits up holding the mesh say “good” and give her juice. Then the same as steps 1 and 2 bridge with the clicker lower the cup or squirt bottle and reinforce with food in the chute.**
- 4. Once Minnie knows to put her hands up and hold the mesh while you are giving juice add in “Holding”. Keep giving the juice and slowly repeat “Holding” and “good” while she is staying in position. Bridge with the clicker and reinforce with food in the chute.**

**What you will be doing from there is slowly lengthening the amount of time you are asking her to hold the position knowing you are working up to several minutes (ask vet time needed). Do not always hold for the same amount of time. Do some short responses and some longer responses. This will keep the training more interesting and keep the response to the cue strong.**

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5. Once Minnie is holding for 1 minute or longer start desensitizing her to touching her belly. First let her see the target (the blue and white one? If she grabs that she can't pull it all the way in.) Hold it and move it close to the mesh while asking her to hold position.
6. Turn the target around tell her "Minnie belly touch" while giving the right hand/fist cue (the same as gorillas) and touch her through the mesh with the handle. If she holds clicker bridge and reinforce with a food item.
7. Work on her bringing her belly closer to the mesh if needed. Tell her touch but don't put the handle in as far so she needs to scoot closer to touch it. We are working toward her bringing her belly in all the way to the mesh when you say "belly touch" and give the visual cue.
8. Work on holding for up to a minute while touching with the target handle.
9. Start touching with the probe.
10. Increase pressure and move the probe around.
11. Put gel on the probe
12. Work up the time to 10 minutes, or multiple responses in a session over 1 minute each to equal 10 minutes.
13. Add in the real machine. If possible set the machine up in advance the day of so the chimps can habituate to it before the session.

### Notes:

As often as possible have a second person observing and the cart in position with a mock machine or box on it.

This is starting point and may need to be modified depending on her reaction. Moving to the next step occurs when she is reliable and comfortable with the current steps.

With all of her behaviors if she understands that "Holding" means to stay in position and the clicker is the release then you get longer durations on everything. She will be able to generalize the criteria for every behavior.

When possible have vet Amy observe a session to visually give you direction on where you need to focus on her body as accurately as possible.

Ask if the hair amount in the area would need shaving.

We need to desensitize Minnie to gel outside of training sessions. Give her opportunities to touch or play with small amounts.

When applying the gel to her body make sure the gel is as close to room temperature as possible.