

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animal behaviour is studied by observing what animals do. Get to know animals that live in groups. Choose for example the Barbary macaque, dwarf mongoose, Przewalski's wild horse, goitered gazelle, European bison, or one of the small monkeys in the Amazonia House, and answer the questions.

Animal species studied:

1 When you arrive at the enclosure, write down your first impression of this animal.

a) What is the species like in terms of appearance, sound, and smell?

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b) What do you know about the species' behaviour?

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2 Begin the study by observing all the animals in the enclosure as a group.

a) Is the group harmonious?

b) Does the group have a clear leader?

c) Are there animals of different ages in the group?

d) What else do you observe?

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e) How do the animals interact with each other?

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f) Are the animals interested in something in their environment?

What?

3 Choose one animal and study its behaviour for 10 minutes.

Write down what the animal is doing every 30 seconds. This type of observation sheet is called an ethogram, and you can find it on the back of this paper.

After completing the observation task, answer the following questions:

a) How old (juvenile, young, adult) and what gender was the individual you studied?

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b) What did the animal spend most of its time doing?

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c) What is the animal's status within the group, and how was this reflected in the animals' behaviour?

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d) Did you discover something new and interesting during your study, or was your first impression of the animals the most accurate?

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