

Exercise 5C

Field Activity: Vertebrate Behavior

Field Notebook:

1. Select **one species** of mammal or bird that you wish to study with at least **two individuals** in the same enclosure. Classify your animals by class, order, family, scientific name, and common name.
* NOTE: This is NOT a group activity! If someone else in the class is already making observations on the two animals you select, either pick two *different animals* or wait until they're done and make your observations at a *different time*.
2.
 - a. Describe your animals' native geographic range and preferred habitat.
 - b. Describe some physical and/or behavioral adaptation of your animals to their native habitat.
 - c. How is this zoo enclosure similar to its native habitat? How is it different?
 - d. How has the enclosure been enriched — or how should it be enriched — for this species?
3. Select two individuals of your species for detailed behavioral observation. Draw both individuals on one page in your field notebook. Label your drawing and describe the distinguishing characteristics you will use to identify each of your respective subjects during your observations.
4. Briefly comment on the positive and negative impacts of zoos in our society.

Ethogram:

5. Use the ethogram (behavioral data table) on the back of this page to record your behavioral observations utilizing the codes at the bottom of the page, plus any specific comments. Make your observations at precise one-minute intervals, alternating between your two individuals. (I.e., first minute—animal #1; second minute—animal #2; third minute—animal #1 again; fourth minute—animal #2 again; etc.) Thus after 30 minutes, you should have made 15 observations of each animal.
6. Prepare a table ranking each observed behavior according to the percentage of time it was observed for each individual animal, and for the average of both animals.

Animal Observation: Ethogram

Species:

Observer:

Location:

Date:

Time:

Weather:

Minutes	Animal ID	Codes		Comments
		Primary	Secondary	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
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23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				

Ethogram Codes (Primary and Secondary)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NV not visible | T travel | V vocalizing |
| BO bad observation | W walking | S scream |
| F feeding | R running | GT grunt |
| E eating | P pacing | GL growl |
| SK suckling | CL climbing | RR roar |
| D drinking | F Is followed | P play |
| M mouth direct | f following | SP social play |
| H with hand | CH chasing | LP lone play |
| SM self maintenance | ch is chased | OP object play |
| G grooming | R riding | SX sexual |
| DF defecating | DR dorsal ride | I inspection |
| U urinating | VR ventral ride | PR presenting |
| SG social grooming | ID idle | MT mounting |
| G is groomed | S sit | MI mother/infant |
| g grooming | ST stand | A aggression/domination |
| Gg mutual grooming | R recline | S submission |
| | W watching | DS distress/discomfort |