

How to do an Ethogram:

- 1) Write what animal species you are observing, date, time, location, weather and your name. Scientists record this type of information to help them answer questions!
- 2) Write any other observations or items important to note for your observation (Examples: Are there lots of people around? Is the animal taking notice of you? Does the animal have something it doesn't usually have?)
- 3) Have a timer or watch a clock to accurately record in the time increments necessary for the ethogram. You may choose to record every 10 seconds, 30 seconds, or minute.
- 4) Record what the animal is doing at each time increment.
- 5) Ethograms should be done more than once, at varying times of the day or week. The more it is done, the more accurate information you will get about the animal's behavior.

Possible Behaviors of Animals

- Aggressive—attacking other animals; biting, growling, or negative behaviors towards other animals (fighting)
- Climbing—to go up
- Digging—to break up the ground with paws
- Eating—eating or tasting food
- Exploring—walking and looking around habitat
- Fishing—looking in water for food
- Foraging—looking through sand, hay, grass, bushes, etc.
- Freeze—no movement, eyes open; statue-like
- Growling—vocalization, deep, rumbling; lengthy duration
- Hunting—to search for food
- Inactive—no moving; resting
- In water—any part of body submerged in water
- Looking—looking/watching the observer
- Not visible—animal is not currently in view; can't see it
- Grooming—cleaning itself
- Playing—activity/exercise with an object or another animal
- Rubbing—scratching against an object or surface
- Sleeping—inactively lying down with eyes closed
- Stalking—moving in a silent manner, with body low to the ground
- Swimming—most of body in water; active motion





Species: _____

Male or Female: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time _____

Observer: _____

Notes:

1		16	
2		17	
3		18	
4		19	
5		20	
6		21	
7		22	
8		23	
9		24	
10		25	
11		26	
12		27	
13		28	
14		29	
15		30	