

Become a Zoologist — Behaviour study

The keepers at the zoo study the behaviour of all our animals to make sure that they're behaving normally. This helps them to know if the animals are being well looked after. If their behaviour changes it tell keepers that something might be up—they might be ill, or even pregnant.

Run your own behaviour study using the following steps:

1. Pick your animal. You could watch your pets, an animal in your garden (like birds on a bird feeder) or one of our videos from London Zoo or Whipsnade Zoo.
2. Fill in the information on the top of your observation sheet. You need to note down the name of the animal you're studying and the weather to day. Like humans, the animals might be doing different things depending on whether it's rainy or sunny!
3. Start a timer and every 15 seconds put a tick in the column for what you see your animal doing, moving down a row each time. Ask an adult to help you if needed. If you don't have a timer, you can always count to 15 each time.
4. Add up how many times you saw the animal doing each behaviour and write this in the row at the bottom.

Try study the animal again at a different time, during different weather or after its eaten and see what results you get.

Animal behaviour record sheet

Use the following sheet to collect behaviour data on animals

date		animal	
start time		weather	

	Walking	Running	Eating	Drinking	Lying down	Standing still
15 seconds						
30 seconds						
45 seconds						
1 minute						
1 minute 15 seconds						
1:30						
1:45						
2 minutes						
2:15						
2:30						
2:45						
3 minutes						
3:15						
3:30						
3:45						
4 minutes						
4:15						
4:30						
4:45						
5 minutes						
Total						

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