Behavior Observation Ethogram

Mammal Edition · For grades 6–12

An ethogram is a research scientist's catalog of an animal's behaviors, with precise definitions so two observers watching the same animal record the same data. Use this ethogram to observe any mammal cam on Wild Windows (panda, elephant, sea otter, lion, polar bear, gorilla, red panda). Read each definition carefully before you watch. During your observation, fill in the log on page 2.

THE 12 BEHAVIORS

FE	Feeding	MAINTENANCE	Actively eating, chewing, or manipulating food with mouth or paws.
DR	Drinking	MAINTENANCE	Mouth in contact with water; visible swallowing or lapping motion.
GR	Grooming	MAINTENANCE	Licking, scratching, or otherwise tending to own coat, feathers, or skin.
RE	Resting	MAINTENANCE	Stationary with eyes closed or partly closed; no apparent active behavior.
WA	Walking	LOCOMOTION	Coordinated forward movement at a steady pace; weight transfers between limbs.
RU	Running	LOCOMOTION	Rapid locomotion with a clear suspension or galloping phase.
CL	Climbing	LOCOMOTION	Vertical movement using limbs and/or tail to grip and ascend or descend a surface.
SW	Swimming	LOCOMOTION	Self-propelled movement through water using limbs, tail, or body undulations.
AF	Affiliative contact	SOCIAL	Two or more animals in non-aggressive contact: grooming, leaning, nursing, play-touching.
AG	Agonistic interaction	SOCIAL	Aggressive, threatening, or submissive interaction: displays, chasing, retreating.
VI	Visual scanning	INVESTIGATIVE	Head movement clearly oriented at distant object or sound; eyes tracking.
OL	Olfactory investigation	INVESTIGATIVE	Nose or muzzle directed at substrate, object, or conspecific; sniffing.

METHOD (ONE-ZERO SAMPLING)

Watch the same animal for 30 minutes. Every 1-minute interval, mark each behavior the animal performed during that minute (one mark per behavior per interval, even if it happened twice). At the end, the total marks per behavior estimate how common each is. Compare your data with a classmate's. Differences are not mistakes — they are part of the science.

Adapted from research-grade ethogram conventions. Free to photocopy and adapt for classroom use.

supportlegacy.org/wild-windows

Observation Log

Mammal Ethogram · 30-minute session

OBSERVER NAME _____ DATE _____ START TIME _____

SPECIES _____ CAM SOURCE _____ ANIMAL ID (IF KNOWN) _____

BEHAVIOR LOG

INTERVAL	BEHAVIOR	COUNT	NOTES
Min 1			
Min 2			
Min 3			
Min 4			
Min 5			
Min 6			
Min 7			
Min 8			
Min 9			
Min 10			
Min 11			
Min 12			
Min 13			
Min 14			
Min 15			
Min 16			
Min 17			
Min 18			

Use behavior codes from page 1 (FE, DR, GR, RE, WA, RU, CL, SW, AF, AG, VI, OL). After the session, total each code and discuss with your class: which behavior was most common? Why?