



Building an Ethogram to Learn about Animal Behavior

Name: _____ Date: _____ Species of Animal Being Observed: _____

Ethogram - a list of typical behaviors performed by an animal, including how often and how long the animal does them

Step 1: Watch your subject animal for 1-5 minutes and write down every behavior you see them do in the box below. Examples include: grooming, eating/drinking, foraging, playing, hiding, resting, locomoting/moving, hunting, etc.

★ Tip: Try to group similar behaviors together so you have fewer behaviors to log, like combining "sleeping", "laying down", and "sunbathing" into one behavioral category called "resting"

Step 2: Fill in the column headers in the table below with the behaviors you observed in Step 1 (we've already added one for you!)

Step 3: Get a stopwatch and press "start" when you're ready to begin watching your animal. Once the stopwatch reads :30 seconds, look at the animal and determine what behavior they're doing at that time. Put an X in the intersection of the :30 second row and the column corresponding to the behavior that the animal was doing at :30 seconds. Repeat this step for each time slot in the rows below until they're all filled in.

| Time (minutes) | Resting | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 0:30 | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 | | | | | | | |
| 1:30 | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 | | | | | | | |
| 2:30 | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 | | | | | | | |
| 3:30 | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 | | | | | | | |
| 4:30 | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 | | | | | | | |

Step 4: To analyze your data, calculate the percent time that the animal spent doing each behavior. Create a pie chart if you'd like!

★ Hint: % time on behavior = (# times behavior was recorded) / (10 data points) x 100



Return your completed ethogram to SPCA Tampa Bay and your data will be added to our Plato Academy Ethogram collection! Submissions can be dropped off at our shelter at 9099 130th Avenue North in Largo or emailed to us at information@spcatampabay.org.

Download another ethogram worksheet or view your classmates results at spcatampabay.org/plato



Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Tampa Bay is a non-profit, animal welfare agency that runs an open-admission For-All animal shelter and public veterinary center in Pinellas County. We have been serving the community for 83 years. Visitors to our shelter can adopt rabbits, guinea pigs, livestock and more. Annually SPCA Tampa Bay cares for almost 8,000 animals that have been surrendered by their owners, along with injured wildlife.

CONTACT US

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