

Animal Behavior Tracking

At zoos and aquariums *and* in the wild, scientists carefully observe animal behavior in order to learn more about those species. By observing animal behavior, we can learn more about what a species eats, when it is usually awake or asleep, and what role it plays in an ecosystem. You can do this same kind of science investigation at home by observing the behavior of a pet or someone you live with!

Materials

- Study subject (a pet or someone you live with)
- A clock or timer
- Animal Behavior Tracking worksheet

Process

1. The day before you conduct your investigation, choose a study subject and the time that your observations will begin.
2. Think about the behaviors you expect to see and how you would describe them on your data collection sheet.
3. Once the investigation begins, observe the study subject once an hour and record its behavior. Try to be as specific as possible about the behavior you observe.
4. Once you've collected your data, you can analyze it for patterns.
 - a. Did you notice anything surprising?
 - b. What behavior did you observe most often?
 - c. Do you have any new questions about your subject's behavior after this?
5. Feel free to repeat your investigation on multiple days to see if your data is reliable.
6. If you have new questions, you can create a different investigation. Try to find how often certain behaviors happen in an hour or in a day, or look for behaviors you didn't see the first time!

Animal Behavior Tracking

OBSERVER:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

Observe your pet once an hour for a whole day and record their behavior. Do you notice any patterns in how they spend their time?

8:00am :

9:00am :

10:00am :

11:00am :

12:00pm :

1:00pm :

2:00pm :

3:00pm :

4:00pm :

5:00pm :

6:00pm :

7:00pm :

8:00pm :
