

Exploring Animal Behavior with Ethograms!

Practice your observation skills with a fun animal observation activity called an Ethogram! Ethograms are charts used by field scientists to collect important information about animals. Studying different animals helps people learn what different animal actions mean, and how we can better care for animals- both in the wild and even at home!

To get us started, we will practice being field scientists at home!

Step 1: Choose an animal to observe (it can be a pet or an animal you can view from your home). This will be your focus animal for the next 90 sec.

Step 2: Fill out the information above your ethogram and start the timer. Once the timer starts, add a check mark for each behavior you observe happening every 15 sec.

Step 3: Take a minute to add some field notes. List any additional things you saw.

Ethogram:

Name of Researcher: _____ Species Name: _____
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Location: _____

Time (Min/Sec)	Resting	Playing	Eating	Sleeping	Vocalizing	Out of Sight
00 sec						
15 sec						
30 sec						
45 sec						
60 sec						
75 sec						
90 sec						

Field notes: What else did you notice? Did your focus animal perform a behavior not listed on the chart?

*This is a modified ethogram-based data sheet, created to introduce students to the study of animal behavior, ethology.

Welcome to the Field!

For this ethogram you can choose to observe an animal in your local park or backyard.

First choose your focus animal. Then under the first column, list how often you will write down the behavior observed (every 15 seconds, every 3 minutes, or every 10 minutes etc.). Next, title the remaining 6 columns with the 6 animal behaviors you want to observe in your ethogram. Lastly, don't forget to include your field notes!

To help get you started take a quick look at our sample ethogram!

Field Ethogram:

Name of Researcher: _____ Species Name: _____
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Location: _____

Time (Min/Sec)						

Field notes: What else did you notice? Did your focus animal perform a behavior not listed on the chart?

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