Animal Behaviour Workshop

Name _____ Class _____

There are 234 different species of primates and it is one of the most diverse orders. The order primate is split into two suborders – Strepsirrhini and Haplorhini.

Strepsirhini – Species have a wet nose and the nose is joined with the upper lip. They have limited facial expressions, a small brain and their best sense is olfactory (smell). They have a toothcomb - small group of incisors at the front of the mouth; they also have a grooming claw.

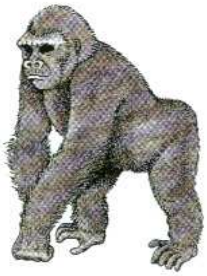
Lemurs

Lorises

Tarsiers

New World Monkeys

Old World Monkeys



Apes and Humans

Haplorhini – Species have a dry nose and the nose is not connected with the upper lip. The have a large range of facial expressions, a larger brain and their best sense is vision. They have hands and feet which are specialised for locomotion

Behavioural Research is one of the most important areas of research in zoos. It can highlight any potential problems, such as stereotypical behaviour, and find solutions to them:

- It improves animal welfare in zoos.
- It gives you a better understanding of your animals.
- It answers questions and finds solutions to problems e.g. why is an animal not breeding, does using a certain enrichment technique reduce abnormal behaviour / increase normal behaviours?

<u>There are a number of different ways a researcher can make observations:</u>

Make general ad lib notes

- Ad lib notes are an informal way of recording information, for example in the case of a pacing animal you can describe how fast, where, and the direction the pacing is going. In a case where there is aggression you can note down aggression towards individuals, grooming etc.

Continuous focal sampling

- Focal sample – follow an individual or small group for an amount of time and record on an ethogram what it is doing and when. Can be done in small sections of time, to work around the spare time of the keeper.

Instantaneous sampling or ("on the beep")

- On the beep – at pre-determined times, record exactly what the animal (s) is doing, almost like a snap shot of its behaviour throughout the day. This is often used to create an activity budget.

One or zero sampling or yes or no sampling

- One or zero is great for giving an indication of how frequently behaviour occurs. At a predetermined time, mark whether or not it is carrying out the observable behaviour. Perfect for keepers who have little time.

Behaviours which you may observe:

Sleeping:
Inactive with eyes shut, can be in a sitting or lying position

Foraging:
Searching or looking for food

Allogrooming:
Animal uses teeth, lips, nails and/or objects to groom another individual

Vocalising:
Making noises

Play:
Social interactions involving non-aggressive physical contact with another individual or solitary play behaviour

Other:
Animal performs any behaviour not already described e.g. copulation

Resting/ inactive:
Inactive, eyes open, animal in a stationary, resting position. Can be in a sitting, standing or lying position

Feeding:
Eating or drinking from a food or water source

Autogrooming:
Animal uses teeth, lips, nails and/or objects to groom itself

Locomotion:
Climbing, walking, swinging, sliding or other behaviours to move around in the enclosure

Aggression:
Aggressive interactions towards another individual

Out of Sight:
The animal is hidden from view, whether in a different section of the enclosure or under an object

Above: Foraging
Below: Play

Left: Allo-grooming

Below: Aggression

Your Task:

Observe a primate species for 15 minutes.
Record your data at 1 minute intervals on the provided ethogram
Compare results of at least 2 different primate species
Describe how the behaviours differ; think about group size, time of day etc.

Behavioural Ethogram Data Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Species: _____ Species Group Size: _____

Weather: _____ Start / End Time: _____

Time	SLEEP	INACT	FORAGE	FEED	ALLO	AUTO	VOCAL	LOCO	PLAY	AGG	OTHER	OUT	TOTAL
0													
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													
											GRAND	TOTAL	

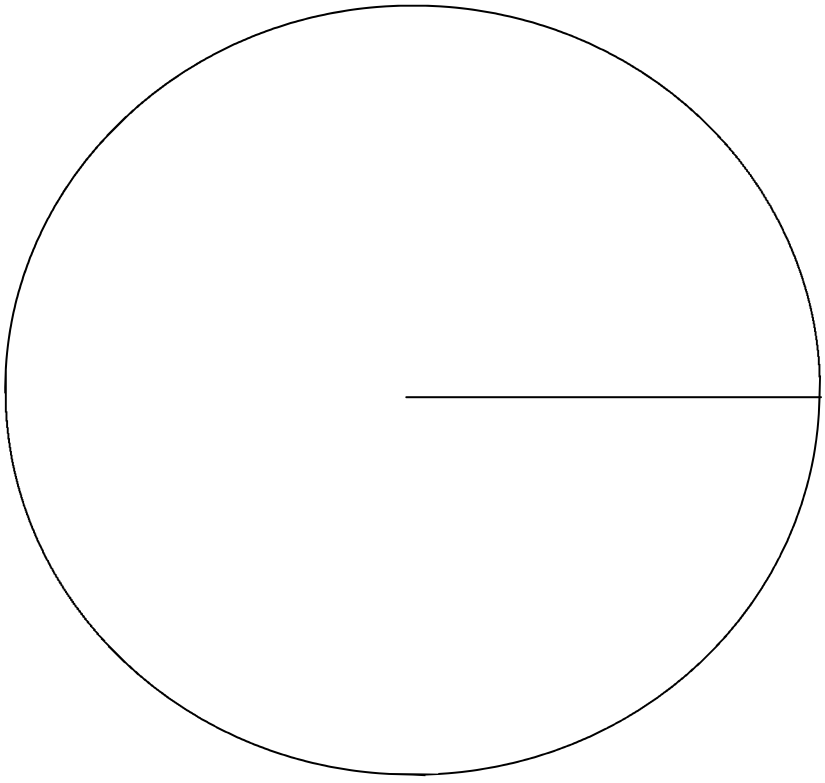
Your Animals' Activity Budget

From your ethogram sheet, complete the table below:

1. Enter the total figure for each behaviour observed into the table below. What was your grand total of behaviours?
2. Calculate your percentage: divide your behaviour total by the grand total and then times by 100.
3. Display your results on a pie chart.

Species_____

Behaviour	Total	%	Degrees
Sleep			
Inactive			
Forage			
Feeding			
Allo-grooming			
Auto-grooming			
Vocal			
Locomotion			
Play			
Aggression			
Other			
Out of sight			



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Species_____

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Allo-grooming			
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Vocal			
Locomotion			
Play			
Aggression			
Other			
Out of sight