

Animal Behaviour

How to understand animals better

Animal Care

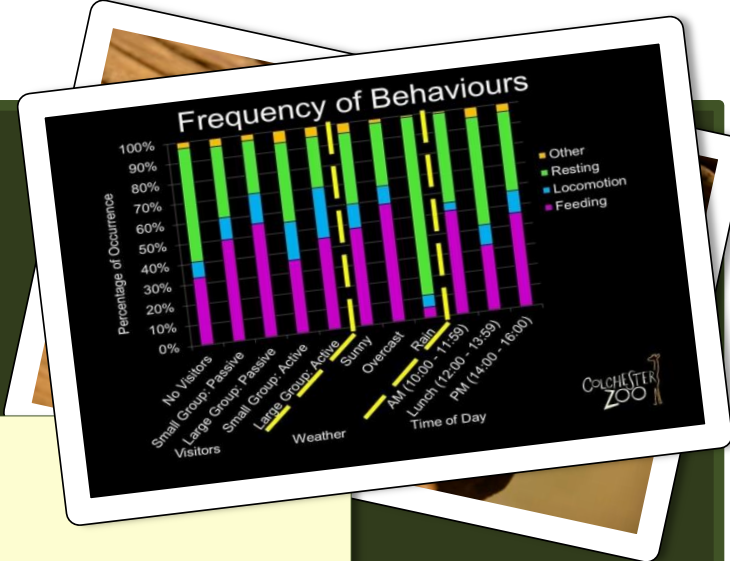
Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ All students will understand how abnormal and stereotypical behaviours can develop in captivity and how they can be reduced.
- ✓ Most students will understand how to apply methods used to study animals' behaviour.
- ✓ Some students will understand that some assumptions of how various factors can influence behaviour may be incorrect.

Session Outline:

The session starts with an outline of what behaviour is and the main behaviours animals perform in general and in the wild. The session then looks at the two forms of behaviour - innate and learned. Innate behaviour leads to what imprinting is and how, in the case of the whooping cranes, can be used in conservation work. Learned behaviour is then discussed, using animals at Colchester Zoo to highlight real world examples. The link of learning and intelligence is discussed before moving into the study of behaviour, where ethology, comparative and methods of study are looked at. The final part of the session discusses abnormal behaviours and stereotypes that can occur in zoo and domesticated animals. Through the use of case studies from around the world, different methods that can reduce stereotypes are explored. Visitor affects and other factors that can influence behaviour are also discussed using case studies. This is discussed in detail including how humans in general can result in a negative as well as a positive effect on the animal's behaviour. The second half of the session involves a tour of the zoo to witness aspects covered in class with the opportunity to ask questions to qualified animal keepers.



Key Points Covered:

- Innate and learned behaviour
- Animal intelligence
- Methods of monitoring and studying behaviour
- Abnormal and stereotypical behaviours
- Visitor effects.
- Real world case studies