

BEHAVIOUR IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



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Behaviour Identification Guide

****Resting —**** The animal is stationary with a visibly relaxed posture, showing no signs of alertness or active behaviour. Body is low or slumped, limbs are relaxed, and there is little to no movement across the sequence.

****Exploring/Sniffing —**** The animal is actively investigating its environment using its nose. Look for the snout close to the ground or objects, sweeping head movements, and frequent pauses or changes in direction.

****Feeding —**** The animal is actively consuming food, remaining largely stationary with repetitive chewing, licking, or biting movements. Distinct from exploring/sniffing, which involves searching rather than consuming.

****Fighting —**** Two or more animals of the same species are engaged in direct aggressive physical contact, including biting, scratching, kicking, or grappling, typically over resources, territory, or mates.

****Grooming —**** The animal is engaged in self-maintenance, including cleaning fur, scratching, or licking. The animal is stationary or nearly stationary with repetitive movements directed at its own body.

****Moving through frame —**** The animal is travelling purposefully through the camera's field of view. Covers general locomotion including walking, trotting, bounding, climbing, or fleeing.

****Playing —**** Exaggerated, non-purposeful movement or social interaction not driven by immediate survival needs. Most common in juveniles. Look for bouncy, loose body posture, mock-fighting, or energetic chasing without clear aggression.

****Predation event — **** A predator is actively pursuing, capturing, killing, or consuming prey. Look for a chase, capture, or a predator stationary over a carcass. Common predators include foxes, feral cats, quolls, and lace monitors.

**** Stealing fur —****

This behaviour is also known as kleptotrichy. This occurs most often with birds, who will steal fur from mammals to insulate their nest.

****Vigilant/Looking around —**** The animal is stationary and alert, monitoring its environment for threats. Key features are an upright, tense posture, raised head, and erect ears — distinct from the relaxed posture of resting.

For more detailed descriptions of behaviours with photos, please refer to the document in our resources section