

Inspired by Jane Goodall,
English primatologist and anthropologist.

Well known for studying chimpanzee
social and family life. She did this by
being accepted IN the chimpanzee troop.

Observed that chimpanzees use tools,
and are not vegetarians. They each have
a unique personality (like humans).



ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Observational ethogram activity

FIND YOUR TEST SUBJECTS

Find a group of suitable test subjects to study!

↳ of the same species!

Some ideas:

- a live webcam in a zoo in your time zone*

*<https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/penguin-cam/?amp=2458>

- your family and family pets

- your fellow students ?



Ethology is closely related to
behavioural science and
psychology.

An ethogram is a
record of behaviours
exhibited by an
animal.

Understanding ethology or
animal behaviour, is very
important in animal training.

Important: the description of the behaviour needs to be **OBJECTIVE**
and **CLEAR**, so without describing the function of this behaviour. For
example, 'head forward threat' is better described as 'head
forward'

Researchers make a list of behaviours based on observations of
animal groups.

Ethograms are used to identify typical and abnormal animal
behaviour and to study group interactions within that animal
species.

Behaviour	Description	Possible function

This way you can reveal which
animals are friends, who is
dominant or submissive, and other
social behaviour.

Then the researcher uses this list to register the types of
behaviour over a time period, and deduct the function of this
behaviour.

In an ethogram, you would normally not describe the function of the
observed behaviour, as you may get it wrong. For instance, 'tail
wagging' has a totally different function in cats and dogs. But just for
the fun of it, try and guess the function of the behaviour anyway!



E
X
A
M
P
L
E

BEHAVIOUR	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE FUNCTION ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ walk ◦ lying on front ◦ carrying stone ◦ waving head 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ walking around with wings open ◦ lying down on rocks ◦ carrying stone in beak ◦ waving head around with beak open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ standard way of moving around? ◦ ◦ ◦

Did you know, Jane Goodall was the first to give her test subjects names instead of numbers. Together with Diane Fossey (gorillas) and Biruté (orang-oetangs), she showed the world to respect these primates AND their habitats.