

Run your own animal behaviour study!

The keepers at both our zoos study the behaviour of all our animals to make sure that they're behaving normally. This helps them to know if the animals are being well looked after, and are content. If their behaviour changes it tell keepers that something might be up—they might be ill, or even pregnant!

Run your own behaviour study using the following steps:

1. Pick your animal

You could watch your pets, an animal in your garden (like birds on a bird feeder) or animals on one of the many zoo livestreams online.

2. Fill in the information on the top of your observation sheet

You need to note down your name and the animal your studying but also the weather—animals might be doing different things depending on whether it's rainy or sunny!

3. Start a timer and record!

Start a timer and every 15 seconds put a tick in the column for what you see your animal doing, moving down a row each time. Get an adult to help you if needed! If you don't have a timer, you can always count to 15 each time.

4. Write your totals

Add up how many times you saw the animal doing each behaviour and write this in the row at the bottom.

5. Display your data

Use the totals to draw a bar chart to show what you found out. See if you can answer the following:

Q. What did the animal spend the most time doing?

Q. What did the animal spend the least time doing

Q. Study your animal on a different day—are they doing the same things? Yes/No

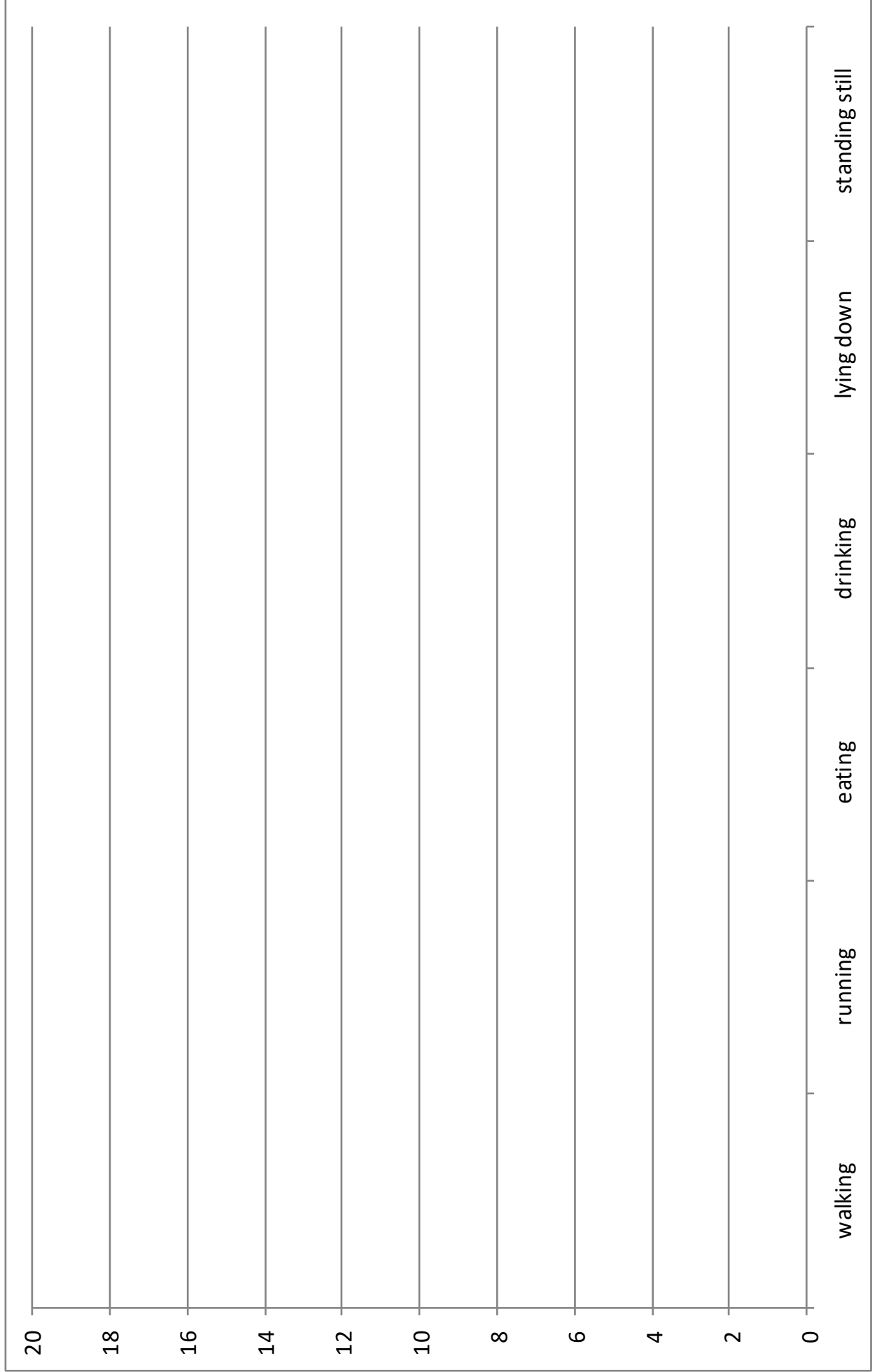
Q. Why might they behave differently at a different time of day or night?

.....
.....
.....

Animal behaviour observation sheet

Date		Animal		Your Name		
Start Time		Weather				
\	Walking	Running	Eating	Drinking	Lying down	Standing still
0:15						
0:30						
0:45						
1:00						
1:15						
1:30						
1:45						
2:00						
2:15						
2:30						
2:45						
3:00						
3:15						
3:30						
3:45						
4:00						
4:15						
4:30						
4:45						
5:00						
Total						

Create a bar chart to help show your data



Number of occurrences

Behaviour