

Daily Observations: Behavior



Observing all of your animals daily is a vital part of caring for them—and the best way to identify illness or injury early. Early detection and treatment improves health and well-being.

Both physical and behavioral observations are important to get a complete picture of an animal's well-being. Here are behaviors you can look for:



Playing, exploring, foraging



Resting, content



Social with others in the group



Eating and drinking normally

NORMAL BEHAVIOR

Some animals are naturally more active or outgoing while others may tend to be more calm or quiet. Knowing what is normal for your animals will help you pick up on abnormal behaviors earlier.

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

Exhibiting behavior that is unusual for that individual

Lethargic, sick, stressed, fearful, withdrawn, aggressive



Stereotypic or repetitive behaviors, pacing, panting excessively, huddling or shivering



Isolated from the group



Not eating, vomiting, regurgitating



If you see any unusual or abnormal behavior, it may be time to **consult with your veterinarian** for proper evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to provide information about daily observation of animals. An additional aid with information about physical observations is also available.

Questions? Email us at CenterforAnimalWelfare@usda.gov

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ANIMAL CARE AID