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:

NORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Playing, exploring, foraging
- Resting, content
- Social with others in the group
- Eating and drinking normally

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Lethargic, sick, stressed, fearful, withdrawn, aggressive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.