

Animal Behaviour

How to understand animals better

Animal Care

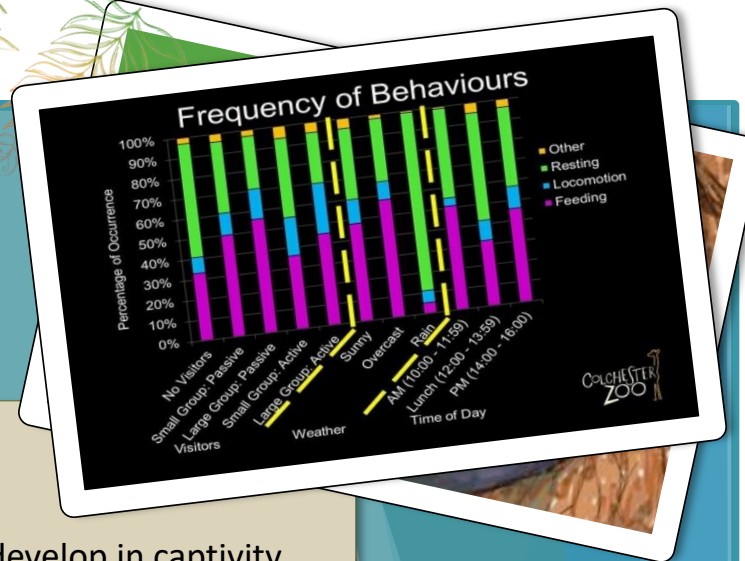
Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ **All students** will understand how abnormal and stereotypical behaviours can develop in captivity and how they can be reduced.
- ✓ **Most students** will understand how to apply methods used to study animals' behaviour.
- ✓ **Some students** will understand that some assumptions of how various factors can influence behaviour may be incorrect.

Session Outline:

The session begins by defining behavior and outlining key behaviors animals perform in the wild. It then explores innate and learned behaviors, including how imprinting in whooping cranes aids conservation. Learned behavior is discussed using examples from Colchester Zoo, with a focus on the link between learning and intelligence. The study of behavior, including ethology and comparative methods, follows. The session then covers abnormal behaviors and stereotypes in zoo and domesticated animals, exploring methods to reduce them through global case studies. Visitor effects and human impact on animal behavior, both positive and negative, are also discussed. The session concludes with a zoo tour to observe these concepts firsthand and have the opportunity to ask keepers questions.



Curriculum Links

- Innate and learned behaviour
- Animal intelligence
- Monitoring and studying behaviour
- Abnormal and stereotypical behaviours
- Visitor effects
- Real world case studies