

What is an ethogram? An ethogram is an exhaustive list of mutually exclusive behaviors. When using an ethogram to document behaviors, it is important to know what behaviors to look for as well as the specific definition of that behavior. Below is a list of common behaviors with their definitions that you may see while observing the elephants.

States	Codes	Descriptions:
Alert	AL	Holding head up or moving it side to side.
Bathe	BA	Using trunk to cover body with water and/or mud.
Contact	CO	Physical contact with another elephant.
Drink	DR	Using trunk to take up water and placing it in mouth.
Eat	EA	Picking up and taking food into mouth.
Lay	LA	Body is horizontal on ground.
Not Visible	NV	Elephant is not within eyesight.
Stand	ST	Upright and stationary.
Swim	SW	Moving forward and/or backward while mostly underwater.
Locomotion	LO	Moving forward in any direction.
Other	OT	Engaged in a state not described in the ethogram.

Directions: Here is an ethogram with rows for time and columns for common behaviors. Your goal is to watch the elephants and every 30 seconds document the behaviors they are showing until you have watched them for 5 minutes. Place a check mark in the column that holds the behavior they are doing. Have fun!

Species:

Individual(s):

Date:

Time:

Weather:

Time/ Behavior	Alert	Bathe	Contact	Drink	Eat	Lay	Not Visible	Stand	Locomotion	Other	Swim
0.00											
0.30											
1.00											
1.30											
2.00											
2.30											
3.00											
3.30											
4.00											
4.30											
5.00											

What were the most common behaviors you saw the elephant(s) doing?

Why do you think it is important to observe animals in our care?

What did you learn from this project?