

## Behavioral Ethograms of Pinnipeds in Human Care: Collaboration Informs Husbandry Strategies

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Detailed ethograms can inform how variation in both direct and indirect interactions modify the behavior of species in human care. In many instances, ethograms serve as an important tool for understanding the baseline behavior of species overall and of the individuals within a specific habitat. Therefore, it is ideal to merge knowledge of aquarium staff with empirical data from researchers to ensure that the well-being of individual animals, as well as necessary species life-history information, is met. This study is an example of such a collaboration between the animal care team at the Long Island Aquarium and researchers at the Center for the Study of Pinniped Ecology & Cognition. In this study, we utilized web cams mounted within the perimeter of the habitats and conducted observations to generate behavioral ethograms of pinnipeds (harbor seals and California sea lions) for 1) a baseline activity budget, 2) usage of space within exhibits by animals, and 3) relationships between activity/exhibit usage with and without people present. This work, and the dissemination of its data, will serve to inform captive management objectives as well as highlight positive interactions for animals that are housed in appropriate human care environments.

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