



## AOS – ESTABLISHING BASELINES

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### IMPORTANCE OF RECORDING “NORMAL” OBSERVATIONS

Noting the same observational value everyday may not seem important. It may seem tedious, but in reviewing the data over time, baseline patterns of health will emerge.

### NATURAL CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Remember, certain behaviors may fluctuate by season. For example, it is normal to observe many panting animals in the heat of summer, while none in the winter. Understanding these changes is fundamental to AOS, and this information may be critical in investigating an outbreak of infectious disease.

### REVIEWING DATA

The data collected must be reviewed and shared as a team if it is to be valuable to the institution. The schedule for reviewing the data may depend on many factors including collection size and staffing. Feedback to animal caretakers about the value of the consistent recording of the data reinforces the importance of this task to maintaining the health of the collection.