



AOS – OBSERVATION RELIABILITY

Contents:

- Consistent Recording
- Training Observers
- Observational Consistency
- Checking Observer Reliability

CONSISTENT RECORDING

The important points to remember is that the observations need to be recorded consistently and that a mechanism exists for follow up of these unusual observations.

TRAINING OBSERVERS

Depending on staffing, observers may be owners, keepers, curators, other staff or volunteers. Animal managers should develop and conduct training sessions with observers to ensure that observations are being recorded in a standardized way by everyone performing the observations.

OBSERVATIONAL CONSISTENCY

Developing pre-defined, objective values for recording observations will increase consistency between observers, and provide reliable longitudinal data. It is the institution's responsibility to develop its own pre-defined values for observations. Each observer should be trained to recognize what those observational values represent. Below is an example that you may see on an AOS checklist:

May 1 - 7, 2011	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Activity L = Low M = Medium H = High	M	M	L	M	L	L	M
Food Consumption 1 = little to none 2 = moderate amount 3 = most 4 = all	3	4	3	3	4	3	4



Influenza of Non-Domestic Species

Supplemental Training Information

CHECKING OBSERVER RELIABILITY

As you develop your observation checklists, there are tools available to assess intra and inter observer reliability when recording observations. A basic discussion about checking consistency of observations can be found at the following website: <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/reotypes.php>