

## Goal Setting Questions

**Natural History:** Use good library references to obtain this information. See [Reference](#) page.

1. What is this species' wild habitat (e.g., desert, tropical rainforest, cover, moisture, concealment/camouflage options, temperature ranges, barriers from conspecifics)? (If specific information on a particular species is unknown, provide information on closely related species/genus/family.)
2. How does the animal in the wild behave in response to changes in temperature and weather? What temperature/humidity range does it experience in the wild?
3. What are some self-maintenance/comfort behaviors (e.g., preening, grooming, bathing, dust-bathing, wallowing, sunning, panting)? Is there a seasonal molt/shed?
4. When is it most active (diurnal, nocturnal, crepuscular)? Why (e.g., predator avoidance)? Does the activity pattern change seasonally?
5. Does the species in the wild inhabit primarily arboreal, terrestrial or aquatic environments or does it switch between them at times?
6. What are the main threats to the animal in the wild? What is it likely to be afraid of (e.g., conspecifics, humans)? What different types of predators does it have to look out for in the wild? Are there any anti-predator behaviors (e.g., broken-wing display)? Where and how does the animal seek refuge in the wild from fearful situations (e.g., loud noises like thunder)? What does fearful behaviors look like?
7. What are its primary sensory modalities (e.g., sight, smell, sound) for communicating with conspecifics, detecting predators and for finding food, mates, or other social partners?
8. What is the social structure of this species (e.g., solitary, dyads, "harem," colonial, leks, polyandry)? What is the average/typical group size?
9. What is the average distance between social group members and from neighboring conspecifics?
10. Describe the primary social behaviors of this species (e.g., aggression, courtship, affiliative, play).
11. Does the social structure change seasonally or throughout the animal's life (e.g., juvenile versus adult, bachelor groups)?
12. Does this species defend territories? Does it maintain a home range? What is the size of the home range/territory? Does this species migrate seasonally?
13. How does the animal advertise its home range or territory (e.g., scent marking, song)? How does the animal attract a mate (e.g., displays, scent marks)? Who displays?

14. Where does the animal raise young (nest location/type, den)? What materials does it use to build nests/prepare dens? Are both sexes involved in rearing young? Are the young precocial or altricial? How are the young fed?
15. How does the animal locomote through its habitat?
16. What is the animal's diet type (e.g., omnivore, carnivore, herbivore, nectivore) in the wild? Does diet change seasonally? By age?
17. What does the animal feed on in the wild? What variety of food does it need to eat? What behaviors does it use to locate and procure the different types of food it needs? Does it use tools to obtain food? Store/cache food?
18. Where does the animal sleep or rest? Does that change seasonally?

Any other considerations?

### **Individual History: Review information in ARKS and related studbooks.**

1. Does this animal have any medical problems (e.g., arthritic, obese, diabetic, missing digits, wing damage, pinioned)?
2. Does this animal have any behavioral problems (e.g., fearful/aggressive to humans, stereotypy, feather plucking)?

Any other considerations (e.g., exhibit at previous institution, hand-raised)?

### **Current Exhibit: Review information in related husbandry manuals.**

1. What is the size of the animal's enclosure (exhibit and holding area)? What are the containment barriers (e.g., chain link, moat)?
2. Can the animal use all components of its exhibit? Can it hide? For example, how many places could this animal be out of view of its cagemate?
3. How functional is the current exhibit? Does the exhibit facilitate/allow the animal to exhibit natural behaviors? How does the animal interact with exhibit elements?
4. Where and how is the animal's food (normal diet, enrichment, browse) provided? Does the animal have a preference for one feeding site over another?
5. Does the physical environment contain elements of novelty (e.g., weather changes, can furniture be changed easily)?
6. What are the animal's opportunities to feed/forage, breed, socialize in species-appropriate ways? Do/can/should animal interact with other species in exhibit?

7. Can the animal exhibit normal patterns of behavior? Are components of the physical environment available for this to occur?
8. Can the animal make choices about where and how it spends its time? Does the animal have control over acquisition of food? Access to hiding places? Protection from the elements?
9. Are there any hazards in this enclosure?

Any other considerations?