



**Marwell
Wildlife**

Post 16 Animal Behaviour
Conference information

Post 16 Animal Behaviour Conferences

2020 Conference dates

24th – 27th November post 16 animal behaviour conference

£12.75 per student including zoo entry

Sample Timetable*

(*Please note: this outline may be subject to change)

- **10.30 - 11.15 Introduction to animal behaviour**
- **11.15 - 11.30 Rat study**
- **11.25 - 12.45 Data Collection**
- **12.45 - 1.45 Feedback**

Please note tea/coffee is available from 12.30-12.45

(Please [contact us](#) if you think you will be arriving late on the day of your conference booking as other schools/colleges may also be in attendance)

Learning objectives:

- Be able to describe what behaviour is and why certain types are displayed
- Consider the criteria for developing a reliable behaviour study and identify any limitations of the methods used
- Create and carry out a comparative behaviour study using animals within the zoo and feedback findings to the group

Session outline

Introduction to animal behaviour

This introduction to animal behaviour is a short session led by a Marwell Education staff. Together we briefly look at; innate and acquired behaviours, classical and operant conditioning and reasons behind certain behaviours. We also include examples of where an animal behaviour study might be undertaken, which animals to monitor and how it can be achieved.

Rat study

This is a **Marwell education staff** led short practical session where students carry out a general behaviour study on a rat. Data tables and clipboards are provided for students.

Data collection

This is a **tutor supervised** session. The students have time out in the park to complete their own animal behaviour study. Students will undertake a preliminary/ acclimatisation study of their chosen species and then undertake a full-length behaviour study of 10 minutes for each animal. Data tables will be provided for students to record their results.

This session gives tutors the freedom and flexibility to tailor make their study to their syllabus' requirements. Tutors can allow their students to compare:

- two different animal species
- two individuals in one particular species

Please refer to the latest edition of our map in order to see which species are currently at the park, although some species may be off-show due to management reason.

Feedback

This is a **Marwell education staff** led session. We analyse a model behaviour data set (supplied to students) and discuss the results, conclusion and variables. Students then analyse their own data from the chosen animals during the data collection activity and draw a bar chart. Students will then feedback their results to the rest of the group, highlighting the limitations of the study and identifying possible errors in data.

This half day conference has been designed to provide students with the practical opportunity of studying animal behaviour in the Park and to develop their understanding of how science works.