



WILD DISCOVERIES

Correlation between positive and negative social behaviors of the Visayan warty pig and the Asian small-clawed otters

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This study was conducted to gain a deeper knowledge of how the social behaviors of animal species correlate depending on habitat and species. For this study, Visayan wart pigs and Asian small-clawed otters were observed because of the great frequency at which these animals display social behaviors. Our hypothesis is that the social interactions exhibited of Visayan warty pigs will be more negative than that of the Asian small-clawed otter. This is due to the assumption that Visayan warty pigs tend to be more individualistic, while the Asian small-clawed otters tend to be more familial. A pair of Visayan warty pigs, and a pair of Asian small-clawed otters were observed for positive social behaviors (affiliative, play, and sexual), negative social behaviors (aggression and submissive) and standard animal behaviors (locomotion, grooming, eating, alert, eliminative, ingestive) for 5 weeks in the morning and afternoon. The subjects were observed for 20 minutes in 30-second intervals (scan-sampling method) and the time, date, and observations were recorded on an ethogram. The data collection took place through online cameras set up in the two exhibits, or in person at the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo. Subjects were allowed to roam freely within their enclosures and interact with each other. Our data proved inconclusive. However, we realized our sampling interval was flawed and not able to capture the social behaviors, in the time constraints we had (5 weeks). We thus conducted a small sample size statistic and results demonstrated a mean of 0.5 negative behaviors per observational period with a 95% confidence interval of 0.102, .987). Our results demonstrated Visayan warty pigs displayed more social behavior than Asian small-clawed otters. However, further data collection is needed to confirm these findings.