

## Meerkat Ethogram

### General behaviours

**Resting** -The meerkat is inactive, possibly lying down or sitting somewhere in their exhibit. Eyes may be open or closed.

**Locomoting** -The meerkat is walking, running, or climbing in exhibit.

**Feeding** -The meerkat digs and consumes various forms of food from the ground with their hands or mouths.

**Aggression** - Interactions towards another individual such as, biting, chasing or displacing one meerkat from another.

**Play**- manipulating an object with paws or running about with no intended purpose.

**Interacting with visitors**- Meerkat is actively looking at or making sounds towards the visitors over the wall or viewing windows.

**Look Out / Sentry**-The meerkat stands upright on hind legs, alert, looking at surroundings.

**Eliminating** – defecating or urinating.

**OOV** – Out of view of the observer

**Other** -Behaviour other than the ones described above.

### Social Behaviours

(Social behaviours include non-aggressive physical contact with another individual, such as play chasing, grooming or sexual behaviours.)

**Grooming**: animal inspects the fur/hair of a partner, and licks or gently nibbles others fur/hair.

**Being groomed**: animal is the receiver of grooming .

**Huddle**: two or more animals remain stationary, maintaining bodily contact

**Nuzzle**: animal gently rubs its head against any body part of recipient

**Present** – rear end is put in front of another individual.

**Copulation** – female presents to male, male approaches female from behind and thrusts repeatedly while maintaining genital-genital contact (penetration is assumed as it is difficult to observe).

### Parental Behaviour

**Nursing**: Infant has mouth in contact with mother's teat.