



WILD DISCOVERIES

Mimicry in Asian small-clawed otters

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The objective of this study focused on the better understanding of how Asian small-clawed otters interact with one another and was designed to determine if mimicking behavior is present and common in the natural behavior of this species. Due to the social nature of Asian small-clawed otters, we hypothesized that there will be evident mimicking behavior. To execute this study, we scheduled observations times during the week between 0800 and 1030, and again at 1700 to 1900. Observations were made via live HD web cameras at the Santa Fe Teaching Zoo to record any observable behaviors. We recorded each act of mimicry to see how many times an otter would mimic each other during each observational period. Out of the 15 total observations, the otters were only observable for 5 of those. Each observation period lasted for 30 minutes, for a total of 7.5 hours of observational time. There were only 3 observable instances of mimicry behavior, not statistically significant. Overall, we did not have enough data to support our hypothesis.