



DURRELL

GORILLA COMMUNICATION

Use these gorilla behaviour cards when making an ethogram for a behaviour study, or use them for a fun game of Simon Says.

Gorillas can make 25 distinct sounds that carry for a mile through the rainforest. Gorillas also communicate through their actions and behaviours.

GLOSSARY

ETHOGRAM - A table or list of different kinds of behaviour/ activity observed from an animal.

BEHAVIOUR STUDY - A timed observation of an animal where the observer records what the animal is doing.

CHEST BEATING

WHAT TO DO

Make fists with your hands and beat them on your chest, either using one hand, or both.

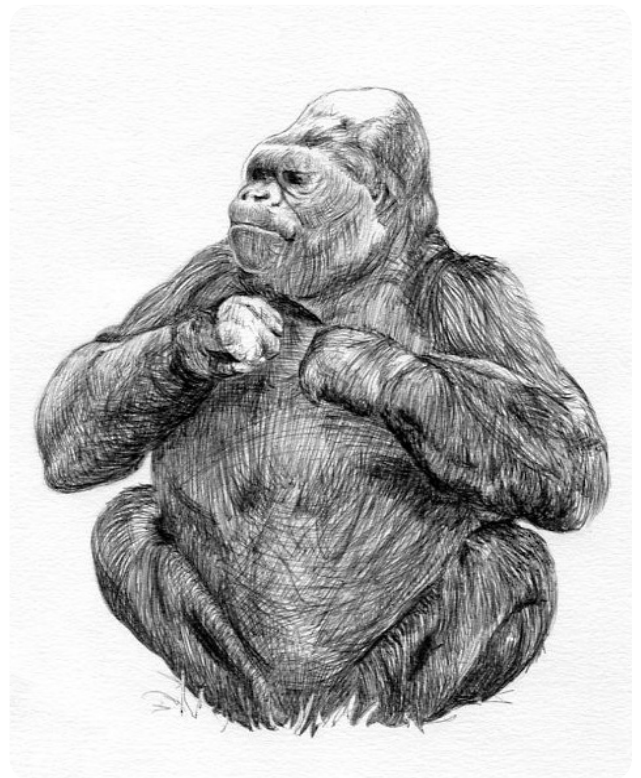
WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

All gorillas.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Gorillas display this behaviour when they want to show their power. It is a form of aggression normally directed at another gorilla. During chest beating, the gorilla may show their teeth.

Making eye contact and chest beating is a way of showing dominance over another animal. Adult males produce a sound when doing this behaviour because they have air sacs, which are located on both sides of their throat.



STRUTTING

WHAT TO DO

Walk rigidly with your arms bowed and your hair on ends so that you look bigger. Make short steps and only look at the receiver by glancing a few times.

WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

Male gorillas.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This is a display of dominance performed when an adult male, especially a lone male without a family group, is attempting to lure a female away from her family.

STARING

WHAT TO DO:

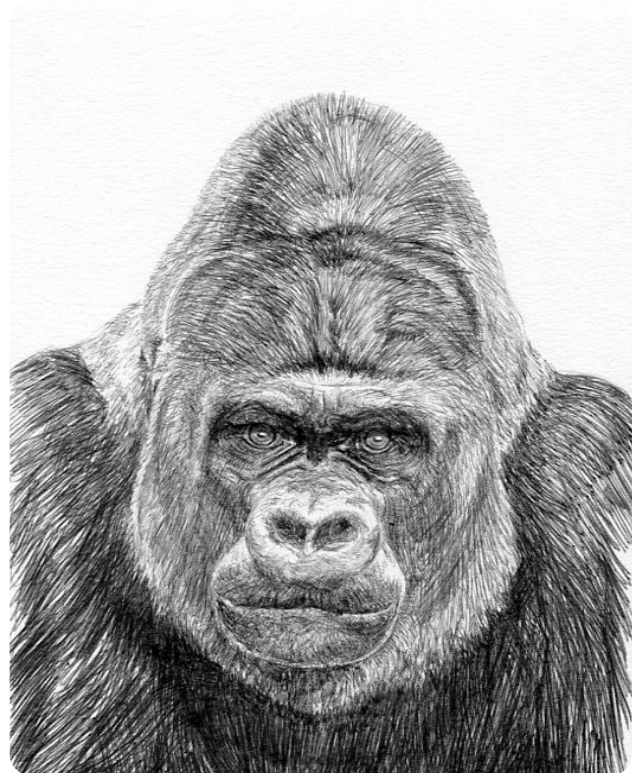
Fix your eyes on a person, with your eyebrows lowered, your head angled downwards, and your lips parted.

WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

All gorillas.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This communication shows aggression or annoyance.



POUT FACE

WHAT TO DO:

Purse your lips, slightly part your mouth and keep your eyebrows raised.

WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

Usually infants when their mothers leave them, or they don't receive what they want.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This behaviour usually shows light distress.

LAUGHING

WHAT TO DO

Laugh!

WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

All gorillas.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

When gorilla laugh, they are having fun and enjoying themselves.



PLAY FACE

WHAT TO DO

Laugh!

WHO DOES THIS BEHAVIOUR?

All gorillas.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

When gorilla laugh, they are having fun and enjoying themselves.

