



SHEEP SHEET

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BEHAVIORS AND THEIR CHARACTER PATTERNS:

Ingestive:

Grazing, browsing, ruminating, licking salt, drinking. Suckling-nudging udder with nose, sucking, wiggling tail.

Shelter Seeking:

Moving under trees, into barns. Huddling together to keep off flies. Crowding together in extreme cold weather. Pawing ground and lying down.

Investigatory:

Raising head, directing eyes, ears, and nose towards disturbance. Nosing an object or another sheep.

Allelomimetic:

Walking, running, grazing, and bedding down together. Following one another. Bouncing stiff-legged past an obstacle together.

Agonistic:

Pawing, butting, shoving with shoulders. Running together and butting. Bunching and running. Lying immobile.

Eliminative:

Urination posture - squatting of females, arching back, bending legs for males.
Defecation - wiggling tails.



Basic Behavior Patterns of Sheep

Sheepdex B-1

Care-giving:

(Epimelectic, females only)

Licking and nibbling placental membranes of young. Arching back to permit nursing, nosing lamb at base of tail. Circling new-born lamb. Baaing when separated from lamb.

Care-soliciting:

Baaing (distress vocalization by lamb when separated hungry, hurt, or caught). Baaing of adults when separated from flock.

Sexual, Male:

Courtship - following female, pawing female, hoarse baa or grumble, nosing genital region of female, sniffing female urine, extending neck with uncurled lip, running tongue in and out, rubbing against side of female, biting wool of female, herding or pushing female away from other males.

Copulation - wiggling tail, mounting, thrusting movements of hind quarters.

Sexual, Female:

Courtship - rubbing neck and body against male, mounting male is rare.

Copulation - standing still to receive male.

Play:

Sexual - mounting by either sex.

Agonistic - playful butting.

Allelomimetic - running together, "gamboling" (bouncing stiff legged and turning in air) together.

"Game Playing" - jumping off and on rock or dirt pile together.

For more information write The Navajo Sheep Project, Inc. PO Box 4454, Logan, UT 84323-4454. The Navajo Sheep Project is a registered non-profit Utah corporation.