

 **Activity 5.5.4 The Situation Room****Purpose**

Each species of animal has many behavioral, anatomical, and physiological characteristics that set it apart from other species. Even within a species, individuals have unique characteristics and anatomy. Males and females display differences just as mature animals and immature animals have differences. Have you ever thought about how these differences affect animal caretakers?

Anatomy and physiology influence many management practices. The overall size of the animal determines the amount of space the animal needs for feeding, drinking, and sleeping. In addition to space for basic needs, animals benefit from space for loafing, which includes wakeful activities such as exercise and socialization. Individual species have additional needs related to specialized anatomy, physiology, and wild behaviors (adapted prior to domestication). These needs influence how animals are cared for.

When working with animals, producers and owners need to know and understand the characteristics of the animals they work with. They also need to determine the best strategies to care for their animals in a safe, efficient, and healthy way. If you have ever worked with an animal, you may have learned or used a specialized management practice that you were not even aware of. One example is using what you know about animal behavior and the point of balance to guide an animal into a specific structure or position. During a situation, can you quickly learn about specific characteristic and then apply that knowledge to improve the situation?

What are the factors that require specialized practices or knowledge for producers and owners? Why is it important to observe and use these tools when working with animals?

**Materials****Per pair of students:**

- *Activity 5.5.4 Situation Cards*
- Computer with internet capabilities

**Per student:**

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

**Procedure**

Work with a partner to match each specialized management practice to the animal characteristic that practice is meant to mitigate, then research one practice to learn more about how it affects the animal industry.

**Part One**

Your teacher will provide you and your partner with a set of *Situation Cards*. Some cards describe characteristics of different types of animals. Other cards describe a specialized management practice used when raising animals. Work with your partner to match the situations to the most appropriate management practices. When you are finished, have your teacher check your work.

**Part Two**

Your teacher will assign one species and management practice to you and your partner. Research the assigned situation and write a description of the management practice in the space provided on the student worksheet. Include the following in your description.



# Activity 5.5.4 Student Worksheet

**Table 1. A Situation and Management Practice**

<b>Situation:</b>	Monocular vision Wide set eyes poor depth perception
<b>Management Practice:</b>	Management of the amount of light sound and distraction. Solid walls and chutes
<p><b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decreases stress, improves production, and limits chances of injury to both animals and humans</li> <li>- If owners or producers do not use this practice, animals will become stressed or agitated and may harm themselves or others</li> <li>- The design of the walls and chutes take into account their eye anatomy, depth perception, and focus</li> <li>- Disadvantages are the added cost for the owner to design the facility</li> </ul>	

**Analysis Questions**

- What do you think the result would be if the management practice you described was applied to another species or type of animal?  
Depends if the animals has monocular vision; it would be successful if they have similar eye sight.

How do specialized management practices improve animal health and care?  
They address specific species' needs, based on their anatomical, physiological, and behavioral characteristics

- How do we use knowledge about animal anatomy, physiology, and behavior to care for the animal?  
We take into account their unique (or similar) features when designing facilities and other management practices
- Why should animal producers and owners manage different animals in different ways?

One management practice may not fulfill all the needs of each species the animal producers are managing. Animal producers should take into account individual species' needs when designing their facilities