

DOCUMENTATION OF THE NORMALLY EXPRESSED BEHAVIOURS OF DOMESTIC GEESE

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ABSTRACT

A study was been planned with the objective of studying and documenting various normally expressed behaviours of domestic geese. It was observed that goose comes into lay once or twice in a year by the month of February and shows excellent broodiness behaviour for efficiently incubating her eggs. Goose and gander are both good parents and rear their young ones together. Geese are mainly grass foragers and liked to eat in a disciplined manner. Socially, geese live in harmony within themselves and with other animals too. Domestic geese were seen to be terrestrial in nature and unlike their wild counter parts, did not show ability to fly. The flocks show gregarious nature and move in an organized manner both on land and in water with the adult gander leading the flock. Other behaviours included extension of neck to its full length, fluttering of wings, feather pecking and shaking movements. Geese were also observed to be preening, rubbing and brushing their bodies with their flexible neck and claws. Besides, they showed a peculiar behaviour of resting on only one leg. The study has provided an insight into the understanding of the behavioral needs of domestic geese which would aid in standardizing the rearing practices on scientific lines and also the production performance of the species taking into consideration ethics and welfare of the species. The study also has importance in characterization of this species.

KEYWORDS: *Geese, Behaviour, Broodiness, Ethics, Laying, Welfare*

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