

Appendix V

Behavioural assessment

Author: Kristina Vogt

Reviewers: Linking Lynx Sourcing Working Group

A) Suitability of ex situ bred lynx for reintroductions – Questionnaire for animal keepers

(This questionnaire is to be filled in for every juvenile and for the mother in the breeding enclosure before the offspring are transferred to the coordination enclosures.)

Institution: _____ Lynx name: _____

Chip number: _____ Sex: _____ Date of birth: _____

Date of assessment: _____

Assessor (name): _____ Assessor (role): _____

1. How would you describe the behaviour of the lynx towards humans? (select most appropriate answer, no multiple selections)

<input type="checkbox"/>	shy
<input type="checkbox"/>	indifferent / calm
<input type="checkbox"/>	interested / curious
<input type="checkbox"/>	aggressive

2. What is the behaviour of the lynx in most cases when a keeper enters the enclosure? (Multiple selections possible, please indicate r = rare or f = frequent in the box before each selected answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	The lynx is not visible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible, but retreats upon approach by keeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible, remains on platform / in hiding place upon approach by keeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walks around in the enclosure, observes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waits at the entrance for the keeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stereotypy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows the keeper, but keeps its distance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approaches the keeper up to a few metres, thereby leaving its cover; shows behaviour directed at the person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows the keeper, may sometimes approach aggressively

3. Within the last 2 months, did the lynx approach the keeper obtrusively? (Lynx approaches keeper directly, thereby leaving its cover and actively reducing the distance to <5 m. It shows a behaviour directed at the keeper (e.g., fixes keepers, tries to grab equipment or jumps seemingly playful in their direction)? If yes, how often? Does this behaviour occur only with one specific person or with several?

4. Has aversive conditioning been used to discourage this aggressive/curious behaviour from the lynx?
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5. Within the last 2 months, did the lynx approach visitors at the fence (outside feeding situations)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Never observed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only few times observed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Observed regularly

Remarks: _____

6. Does the lynx show itself to the visitors during feeding situations? (Multiple selections possible, please indicate r = rare or f = frequent in the box before each selected answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, even when the keeper is still within the enclosure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, after the keeper left the enclosure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes, only when few visitors are present and it is quiet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes, only when the other lynx have already approached
<input type="checkbox"/>	Almost never shows
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visitors cannot view the feeding location

7. Does the lynx eat meat of wild ungulates?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Was never fed with meat of wild ungulates
<input type="checkbox"/>	I was never able to observe the lynx at feeding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eats meat of wild ungulates only reluctantly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingly accepts meat of wild ungulates and parts of carcasses

- 7.5. Was the lynx ever fed whole wild prey carcasses?

<input type="checkbox"/>	yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	no

8. What kind of food items are the lynx fed on?
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9. Has the lynx ever shown hunting behaviour, e.g., tried to capture birds / small mammals? Was it successful?
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10. In the majority of cases, how does the lynx react to visitors walking along the fence with dogs?
(Multiple selections possible, please indicate r = rare or f = frequent in the box before each selected answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Dogs are not allowed in our institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Never observed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retreats, behaves anxiously
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remains at distance, observes or seems indifferent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approaches with interest
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows, threatens, occasionally performs mock attacks

Remarks: _____

B) Suitability of ex situ bred lynx for reintroductions – Behavioural assessment in the coordination enclosure

(This questionnaire is to be filled in for every juvenile lynx in the coordination enclosure 2 months before the planned release. The behavioural tests are to be performed during the activity time of the lynx and are to be filmed (preferably from outside the enclosure and by the test person her/himself). The two test trials should be performed on two different days.)

Institution: _____ Lynx name: _____
 Chip number: _____ Sex: _____ Date of birth: _____
 Date of assessment: _____
 Assessor (name): _____ Assessor (function): _____

1. In general, how would you describe the behaviour of the lynx towards humans? (select most appropriate answer, no multiple selections)

<input type="checkbox"/>	shy
<input type="checkbox"/>	indifferent / calm
<input type="checkbox"/>	interested / curious
<input type="checkbox"/>	aggressive

2. How does the lynx behave when an unknown person enters the enclosure and attempts to approach the animal to a distance of 10 m? (Multiple selections possible)

Test trial 1 Date _____ Time _____

	Behaviour	Realised distance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynx was not found	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible, but retreats upon approach by person	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visible, remains on platform / in hiding place upon approach	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walks around in the enclosure, observes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waits at the entrance for the person	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stereotypy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows the person, but keeps its distance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approaches the person directly, thereby leaving its cover; shows behaviour directed at the person (e.g., "playing behaviour", attempt to grab equipment, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows the person, may sometimes approach aggressively	

Description: _____

Video yes _____ no _____ File name _____

Test trial 2 Date _____ Time _____

Behaviour	Realised distance
Lynx was not found	NA
Visible, but flees upon approach by person	
Visible, remains on platform / in hiding place upon approach	
Walks around in the enclosure, observes	
Waits at the entrance for the person	
Stereotypy	
Follows the person, but keeps its distance	
Approaches the person directly, thereby leaving its cover; shows behaviour directed at the person (e.g., "playing behaviour", attempt to grab equipment, etc.)	
Follows the person, may sometimes approach aggressively	

Description: _____

Video yes _____ no _____ File name _____

3. How does the lynx react to an unknown person walking along the enclosure with a dog?

Test trial 1 Date _____ Time _____

The lynx could not be seen
Retreats, behaves anxiously
Remains at distance, observes or seems indifferent
Approaches with interest
Follows, threatens, occasionally performs mock attacks

Description: _____

Video yes _____ no _____ File name _____

Test trial 2 Date _____ Time _____

The lynx could not be seen
Retreats, behaves anxiously
Remains at distance, observes or seems indifferent
Approaches with interest
Follows, threatens, occasionally performs mock attacks

Description: _____

Video yes _____ no _____ File name _____

4. Can the lynx utilize an entire carcass of a wild ungulate?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Was never fed with entire carcasses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does not accept an entire carcass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can utilize an entire wild ungulate carcass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can open an entire wild ungulate carcass itself and utilize it

5. Has the lynx ever shown hunting behaviour, e.g., tried to capture birds / small mammals?
Was it successful?
