

Motion tracking of pygmy hippopotamuses (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis*) at Bristol Zoo

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Bristol Zoo Gardens like many other zoos monitor the behaviour of their animals to better understand their nature. This information can be used to develop new techniques in caring for their animals. Usually a researcher would be hired by Bristol Zoo Gardens to observe the animals. The researcher will closely observe the movements of the animal and how much time it spends in different areas of its enclosure.

This project is to design a method of obtaining information about the movement of the two Pygmy Hippopotamuses of Bristol Zoo Gardens via an automated process. The zoo would like to use this information to better understand the behaviour of their animals especially during times when it is inconvenient to observe them e.g. during the night.

Using PIR motion detectors linked to a data logger which in turn relays data to a computer, the movement of the pygmy hippopotamuses may be recorded. This method allows for the accumulation of a far greater amount of data than that acquired by the standard method.

The project lead to results which suggest that the movement of any warm blooded creature could be recorded using a similar solution.

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