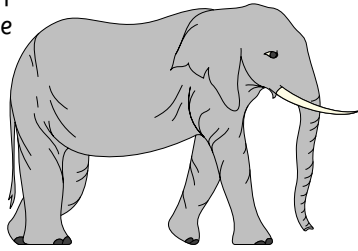


# Using IT in... animals

## How do animals keep cool?

The elephant's ears work like a heat radiator - allowing them to keep cooler in hot conditions. The children can make elephant ears out of cooking foil and then attach them to a tin. You can fill the tin with hand-hot water and they can measure how fast the water cools using sensors. If you have two **temperature sensors** you can compare this with a tin 'without ears'. A desk fan will help speed the cooling. Have they made the investigation a fair test? What does the graph on the screen tell them?



IT: Measuring

If you place a **light sensor** in the cage you will see a response on the screen each time the animal moves near it. So by using **computer sensors** you can also record the activity of a mammal over 24 hours. It will help answer questions such as, how much time is spent in the nest and whether the animal is busy by day or by night. Teachers have used all sorts of sensors to monitor animal behaviour, like putting a **temperature sensor** in a nest or putting a light sensor near a hamster's exercise wheel. In one example, a light sensor was placed, using Blutac, against a fish tank to pick up the fish's swimming movements. They covered part of the tank with black sugar paper and could record which part of the tank was the most used.



IT: Measuring

## How does our pet live and grow?

Having a pet is a good opportunity to study and record how it lives and grows. The children can record how the pet behaves and how fast it grows. They can weigh it daily or measure how much it drinks and eats. They can keep their observations in a **word processor** - adding bits daily. Unlike a paper diary it need never be spoiled by a messy entry. Daily measurements can be kept in a **spreadsheet** program - building up day by day to show the pet's growth. Is there a growth spurt? Is there a pattern in the results e.g. Does the pet eat more as it gets bigger?



## Do animals have special needs?

Suppose you were made head keeper in a safari park. What animal will you keep? What does it eat? What else do you need to provide for your animal? Does your animal prefer dark or light? Why might it like the dark? The task is a good stimulus for research on animals and their needs. Get the children to use **PowerPoint** to prepare an information card about each animal they keep. Search the **Internet** for images.



IT: Handling information / Modelling

A	B	C	D	E	F
Basil's weight chart					
Date	Weight				

Section

3

