

Monkey Business: Animal Behavior



Behavior

- any action in response to a stimulus in the environment



Types of Behaviors

1. Innate behavior
 - born knowing how; “instincts”
2. Learned behaviors
 - acquired through experience
3. Social
 - Any behavior done towards/with another organism

Way to analyze behavior...

- WHAT ADAPTIVE VALUE DOES THIS BEHAVIOR HAVE?
- HOW DOES THIS BEHAVIOR HELP THE SPECIES SURVIVE?

Innate Behaviors

Suckling - nursing



Taxis

- Movement in response to a stimulus
 - Positive = toward stimulus
 - Negative = away from stimulus



Phototaxis – moving in response to light



Chemotaxis – moving in response to chemicals



Migration – traveling long distances in search of new habitat



Hibernation – state of inactivity to conserve energy when food is scarce



Estivation – state of inactivity to avoid heat



Learned Behaviors

Habituation - decrease in response to a stimulus after repeated presentations



Imprinting - animal acquires behavioral characteristics from its parent during critical period



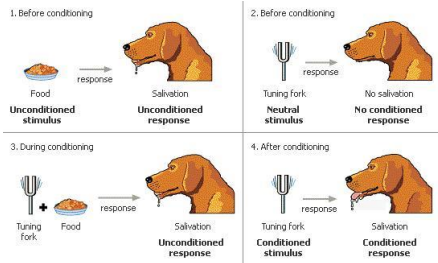
Imprinting



Classical conditioning

- Organism learns to respond in an unusual manner to a stimulus
- Example:
 - Every time someone flushes a toilet in the apartment building, the shower becomes very hot and causes the person to jump back.
 - Over time, the person begins to jump back automatically after hearing the flush, before the water temperature changes.

Classical Conditioning



Trial and Error – learning from mistakes



Workout with a friend - no trainer required



Social Behavior

Communication

- activity of conveying information by sound, visuals, signals, or behavior

Communication with Pheromones

Pheromones in Animals



Visual Communication



Courtship Dancing



Courtship Dancing?



Territoriality

- Defending resources



Cooperativity

- Individuals work together toward a common goal
 - Unusual

Pack Behavior



Altruism

- Behavior that benefits another at the expense of the organism



Kin Selection

- Helping close relatives even at a cost to yourself.

