

Vocabulary Chapter 20 Behavior, Selection, and Survival

behavior

The sum of all activities of an organism

Example: Bird migration is an example of behavior.

tolerance

The ability of an organism to survive a particular condition

Example: The saguaro cactus has a high tolerance for the heat and cold of the Sonoran Desert.

innate behavior

A behavior that is determined genetically

Example: The bee dance is an example of innate behavior.

learned behavior

A change in behavior or the acquisition of a new behavior that comes about as a result of experience.

Example: The dog's rolling-over-for-a-bone trick is an example of learned behavior.

instinct

Another name for innate behavior in animals

Example: The dog's attempt to bury a bone in the carpet is an example of instinct.

hierarchy

A system found in certain animal groups in which certain individuals obtain dominance or superiority over other individuals

Example: In the chicken coop we see a pecking order in which certain chickens display their dominance.

appeasement

A submissive behavior demonstrated by certain animals

Example: The dog rolled over and exposed his neck to the aggressor in an obvious appeasement behavior.

social behavior

A type of behavior displayed in animal group interactions

Example: In the movie March of the Penguins, we see social behavior displayed as the penguins gather for mating.

ritual

A type of very detailed or scripted behavior that is carefully followed and repeated in many animal species.

Example: The mating ritual of loons has been the subject of fabulous video footage.

territory

In the environment, a specific plot or area of land or water which is needed by a particular species of animal for survival

Example: A mountain lion's territory is over 100 square miles.

territoriality

The behavior exhibited by a particular animal in defending its territory

Example: The bears exhibited territoriality at the park garbage dump.

courtship

Animal behavior designed to procure a mating partner

Example: The courtship flight of the male hummingbird produced a dazzling display.

sexual selection

The selection of a particular animal's mating partner based upon a response to secondary sexual characteristics (antlers, colored feathers, etc.).

Example: The buck acquired a number of does for his harem.

stimulus

A signal in the external environment that causes a reaction by an organism

Example: The sound of the ice cream truck caused the children to become excited.

hibernation

A slowing down of the metabolic rate in animals allowing them to survive cold winters

Example: Groundhogs undergo true hibernation each winter.

dormancy

The state of slowed down physiology in living organisms

Example: Both plants and animals undergo dormancy in cold regions.

metabolism

The total of all the chemical reactions taking place in an organism

Example: The metabolism in my body helps keep it warm.