



Animal Behavior

Topic 33

Our Book

Chapter 27

Pages 764 - 790

Animal Behavior

Overview

The term instinct is commonly thought of as describing behavior that is pre-programmed and requires no thought.

An instinctive response happens automatically and is the same across all individuals of a species.

While this seems like a clearly defined category, not all behavior is so cut and dry. Many behaviors have both genetically pre-programmed and learned aspects.

The degree to which certain behaviors, especially in humans, are pre-determined is often a subject of intense debate.

Whether the behavioral response to a given stimulus is learned, genetic, or both is the subject of study in the field of behavioral genetics.



Vocabulary

You should be able to recognize:

- Stimulus
- Kinesis / Taxis
- Circadian rhythm
- Instinct / Innate
- Habituation
- Imprinting
- Altruism



Ethology

An interesting field of study

Ethology is the scientific study of animal behavior and a sub-topic of zoology.

Ethology overlaps, to some extent, with psychology.

Psychology is a social science which studies human behavior, but many psychologists have done experiments on learning in animals.

Ethology studies animal behavior, but many ethologists have been interested in human behavior.

