

Animal behavior

What is behavior?

- *animal behavior* includes all the manners of the animal as it interacts with other organisms either from their species or from other species and the physical environment.
 - Behavior can also be defined as: a change in the activity of an organism in response (reaction) to a *stimulus*.
 - A *stimulus* is a detectable alteration in the animal's external or internal environment. The *stimulus* may result from hunger, sound, pain, visual cues, hormonal changesetc.
- * Genes and environment are come together to form animal behavior.

What does influence animal behavior?

- Environmental factors.
- Internal influences such as hormones.
- Learning.
- Genetic predisposition (sometimes referred to as “instinct”).

Animal behavior importance

1- Animal behavior science and its application plays a vital role in maximizing production efficiency in poultry projects.

2- Studying of poultry Behavior is important to get united management rules, also to minimize the influence of what is often uninformed debate.

Types of Animal behavior:

1. General Behavior:

- ✓ It means the wide and general details about animal's behavior.
- ✓ For example: the domestic fowl by nature is a wary, shy animal with limited ability and short-term flexibility. However, it displays a good ability to adapt to different circumstances and changing conditions. It has excellent vision and hearing, but its other senses tend to be poorly developed.
- ✓ In the wild state it lives on the jungle floor in a thick forest habitat also uses the ground space for foraging, dust bathing and nesting. At night it perches in the trees for protection against ground predators. A number of these Behavior activities are innate (inborn).

2. Innate Behavior (inborn = instinctive behavior):

- It is the specific behavioral patterns of any individual reflect the interaction of its “innate” behavior with the environment in which it is reared.
- The instinctual behaviors are:
 - a) Automatic, inheritable, passing from generation to generation through genes.
 - b) Developmentally fixed and are not modified by experience, because are behaviors that fully developed from the animal's birth.
 - c) Despite different environments, all individuals exhibit the behavior.
 - d) The instinctual behaviors are fixed action pattern; means are behaviors the animal is compelled to engage in.
 - e) **For instance**, chickens use dark and quiet places (nests) while laying egg.

3. Learned behavior:

- It can be defined as “any internal change causing adaptive modifications in behavior as a result of experience.”
- It is important for animals which must learn specific and new ways to survive that’s let the animals can learn to expect that any action will have a predictable outcome through trial and error.
- The learned behaviors differentiated as are:
 - 1) Modified by experience thus are Variable
 - 2) Associative learning
 - 3) Habituation
 - 4) Insight (cognitive) learning
 - 5) Observational learning

* Examples on Learned behaves in poultry:

1- Individuals will copy others and this is an important part of the learning process. When a bird sees another pecking at something, it will copy, thus learning what to eat, and where to find food (and water).

2- Fowls are highly adaptable and become conditioned to many environmental and management situations. Training in relation to a number of management requirements is an important part of flock management. Fowls soon learn to pull, tug, peck, and scratch and their nature is such that they will remain at these tasks for lengthy periods.