

NOTES 10.2

Chapter 10 – Animal Behavior
Lesson 2 – Interacting with Others



Communication

Did you know that not only do animals show individual behaviors but that they also have distinct behaviors in groups.

Have you ever noticed a swarm of ants around a piece of food that has fallen on the sidewalk? How do you think the ants knew where to go?



A single foraging ant discovered the food and left a trail of chemicals for the other ants to follow. This and other types of communication are important for animal group behavior.

Animals use communication for many reasons, such as –

- Protection
- Locating group members
- Warning others of danger
- Finding mates

4 ways Animals communicate -

1. **Sound** - used by birds, amphibians, reptiles, & mammals

Example – dolphins communicate with grunts & whistles to demonstrate playfulness or to warn others of danger



Example – crickets make sounds & fireflies produce a glowing light to attract mates



2. **Light** - to communicate in the dark some animals use

bioluminescence

Q: What is bioluminescence?

A: the ability of certain living things to give off light

Example – male fireflies blink out a code to attract females



Nearly 90% of animals that live deep in the ocean use bioluminescence.



3. Chemicals

- animals produce chemicals called pheromones

Q: What are pheromones?

A: a chemical that is produced by one animal and influences the behavior of another animal of the same species

When released into the environment, pheromones can signal the presence of -

- danger
- food
- mates
- borders of a territory

Examples -



Moths release pheromones into the air to attract mates.



Male dogs mark surfaces with Pheromones in their urine to identify their territory.



Ants leave a trail of one type of pheromone that leads other ants to food. They produce different pheromones to warn of danger.

4. Body Language

- used to communicate feelings

Reading Canine Body Language: T-E-M-P.

(with Tickle the Pit Bull)

Tail, Ears & Eyes, Mouth, Posture



CAT LANGUAGE



Societies & Behaviors

Have you ever seen a flock of birds flying together?

Animals, like birds, live in groups for many reasons such as for –

- protection
- obtaining food

Q: What is a society?

A: a group of animals of the same species living and working together in an organized way

3

types of societal behaviors –

1. **Dominance & Submission** – organized by dominance or social hierarchy

Animals with the highest social status – the dominant animal – have power over the ones below it.

Dominance is found in wolves, hyenas, chickens, and some primates.

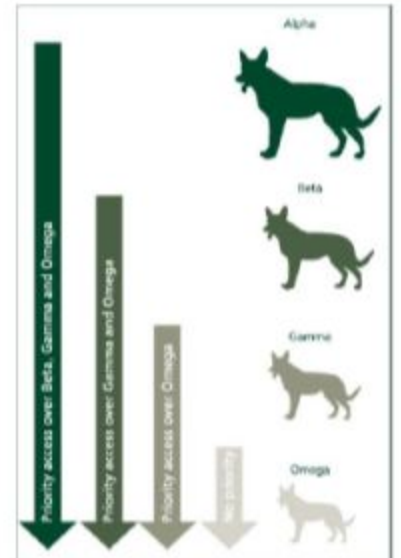
Animals with a lower status are **submissive** to that animal.

Q: What is submissive?

A: the condition of being humble or compliant

In hyenas, females are most dominant, then cubs, and then males.

Less dominant members of a group usually submit to, by rolling over or crouching down, to more dominant members.



2. **Territorial Behaviors** – most animals have a territory

Q: What is a territory?

A: an area set up and defended by animals for feeding, mating, and raising young

Some insects and most vertebrates have a territory.

Animals may identify their territory by –

- making noises
- physically changing the territory (ex. scraping bark off trees)
- marking the area with pheromones, urine, or feces (poop)



Animals defend the borders of their territory from other members of their species called

Territorial Imperative

If borders are crossed, the animal will try to scare or intimidate first then become

aggressive

Q: What is aggression?

A: a forceful behavior used to dominate or control another animal

When animals fight, they often try to not cause serious harm rather to get the other animal to leave the area or back off.

3.

Courtship

- finding a mate ❤️



Animals have specialized behaviors that help them find & attract a mate -

- compete with others of the same species
- release pheromones (insects)
- use mating songs (frogs)
- bring a gift of food (birds)
- dance or use dramatic body movements