

Topic

Learned behaviour or acquired behaviour.

The behaviour, which has been more or less permanently modified in response to experiences of the individual organism, is called acquired or learned behaviour.

→ It develops by learning or training.

→ It is an adaptive.

→ The learned animal responds in ways that improve its survival and reproductive success.

→ Learning is a process through which life experiences leave their mark on the individual and permits an individual to develop new adaptations in the light of past experiences.

→ It has been defined variously.

* According to Hilgard (1956), learning occurs when the probability of certain behaviour patterns in

specific stimulus situation has been changed as a result of previous encounters on rather similar stimulus situations.

* Hinde (1970) defined learning as changes which cannot be understood in terms of maturational growth processes in the nervous system fatigue or sensory adaptations.

* Wallace (1973) suggested that learning is the adaptive changes in behaviours that results from the individual experience and probably associated with physical changes in the central nervous system. It may function with innate patterns or but may ultimately be separable from these patterns.

Learning ranges from the simplest modifications of innate behaviour to the most complex like the reasoning in man.

Following components constitute the complex of learning -

1.) Habituation.

- Animals are able to learn not to respond stimuli which have proven to be harmless.
- This phenomenon is known as habituation and is an example of true learning.
- When an unusual noise is made in the presence of the family dog, it responds by turning its head towards the source of the sound.
- If the stimulus is given repeatedly, the dog will finally cease to respond.
- This is case of true learning and not due to adaptation of sense receptors because of the fact that the response is long-lasting.
- When fully habituated, the animal will not respond to the stimulus even when the stimulus was given weeks and months after.