

Anthropology 215

■ Primate Behavior



"Here's the last entry in Carlson's journal: 'Having won their confidence, tomorrow I shall test the humor of these giant but gentle primates with a simple joy-buzzer handshake.'"

Primate Behavior/Social Organization/Kinship

■ Study of Primates:

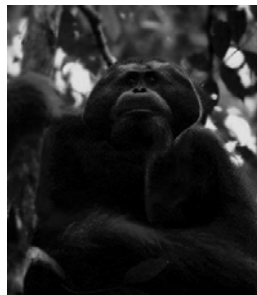
Artificial settings:
e.g., zoos, colonies,
Zuckerman's baboon
colony Regents Park
Zoo, London



Mentally disturbed chimp

Field studies

■ Natural habitat



Laboratory Studies

Psychological testing,
language etc.

- E.g., reflex
clinging vs.
righting reflex



Reflex clinging vs. righting reflex

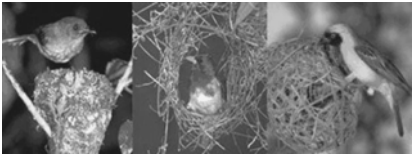


Behavior

- what animals do in their interaction
with the environment, how they
come in contact with their
environment, how they breathe,
touch and move, how they eat,
how they escape predators, how
they communicate with other
members of the group etc...
- learned vs. innate behavior



Innate Behavior



Displays

- Activities that convey information
- E.g., aggressive or attacking behavior, movements concerned with vision (e.g., direct gaze), facial expressions, vocalizations; resting attitudes, locomotor movement (flick of a tail), scent marking, sexual behavior, grooming, alert and protective responses etc.



Interpreting Displays

- What function do they perform?
- Why have they evolved?
- What causes the individuals to express the behavior?

Example: Territoriality

- Gibbons
- Territory: defended area: area is the region where an animal successfully wins battles
- Exclusive territory



Grooming

- not only keeps animals healthy but it also satisfies the fulfills certain psychological needs of the individual.



Marking behavior

- or scent marking is common in lemurs

Primate Social Organization

1. Group Size
2. Group Composition
3. Mating Systems
4. Social Roles - especially for adult females and males
5. Various Types of Dominance
6. Permanence versus Instability of Group Membership
7. Tendency to Aggregate into Larger Social Groups
8. Presence of only Heterosexual Reproductive Units, All-Male Groups or All-Female Groups, or Single Individuals
9. Patterns of Interactions.

Generalizations- Primate Social Organization

1. Contain both sexes & all age groups
2. Group composition varies minimally
3. Long periods of development & life expectancy

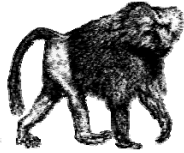
5 Major Themes

Jane Lancaster

1. Mother-infant bond and Matri-focal Subunit



2. Dominance and dominance hierarchies
3. Sexual bond between males and females
4. Separation of roles: Adults and Young
5. Separation of roles by sex



Socioecology

- Small territory and ample food
 - monogamous pair is the best defensive strategy
 - highly territorial (e.g., gibbons) and vegetarian
- Not territorial, uneven food resources
 - usually frugivorous or omnivorous

Social Group Patterns

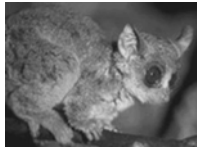
- Five basic patterns



Single female and her offspring



- orangutans, some of the small nocturnal prosimians (mouse lemurs and galagos), and some humans



Monogamous family group



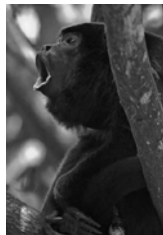
- most small New World monkeys (marmosets, tamarins, titi monkeys), some prosimians (indris, tarsiers, and some pottos), the small Asian apes (gibbons, siamangs), and some humans



One-male-several-females group



- hamadryas baboons, geladas, langurs, howler monkeys, gorillas, and some humans



Multimale-multifemale group

- savanna baboons, macaques, colobus, and some New World monkeys



Fission-fusion society

- chimpanzees

