

Lesson 3.2 Glossary

A

Aggressive behavior – Threatening or harmful behavior toward others of the same or different species.

B

Behavior – The actions or reactions of a person or animal in response to external or internal stimuli.

C

Conditioning – The learned response of an animal to a stimulus.

D

Docile – Refers to an animal that is gentle in nature.

Dominance – The tendency of one animal in a group to exert its social influence or presence over others in the group. Also referred to as social order or pecking order.

E

Ethology – The study of animal behavior of animals in their natural surroundings, focusing on instinctive or innate behavior.

F

Flight zone – The distance that an animal is caused to flee from an intruder.

Flighty – The tendency of an animal to take sudden flight when alarmed.

Flocking – The habit of congregating in large flocks; inherent in sheep.

H

Habituation – A type of operant conditioning. An animal's ability to ignore something that occurs often enough.

Handling – Manipulation necessary to care for animals.

I

Imprinting – A kind of behavior common to some newly hatched birds or newborn animals that cause them to adopt the first animal, person, or object they see as their parent.

Ingestive behavior – The mannerisms or habits that an animal uses during the intake of food.

Instinct – The ability of an animal based upon its genetic makeup to respond to an environmental stimulus; it does not involve a mental decision.

Intelligence – The ability to learn.

K

Kinesis – A movement that is a response to a stimulus but is not oriented with respect to the source of stimulation.

N

Novelty – Anything new or sudden in an animal's environment.

O

Operant conditioning – Learning that is primarily influenced by its effects.

P

Point of balance – At the animal's shoulder; point where a handler can move an animal forward or backward.

S

Social behavior – How animals act when they interact with each other.

Stress – A physical, emotional, or chemical factor causing body or mental strain or tension.

Submissive behavior – Behaviors a less-dominant animal exhibits toward a more-dominant animal to prevent being subjected to aggression.

T

Taxis – Oriented movement of a motile organism in response to an external stimulus, as toward or away from light.

Temperament – Disposition of an animal or person.