

BEYOND OPERANT CONDITIONING: RESULTS OF APPLYING A COGNITIVE-EMOTIONAL TRAINING MODEL TO SEA LIONS.

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Learning and animal behavior are more complex process than previously thought. The potential affective relations, their emotions, cognitive abilities and the possibility that a learned behavior can be self-rewarding are elements not used in their training except occasionally and intuitively. In order to incorporate them systematically we propose a training model divided in stages and phases, with standardized protocols that can be reproduced and evaluated objectively. This model builds and evaluates the quality of the relationship and communication between animal and trainer, the teaching of behaviors, their understanding through the cognitive process of problem resolution, and, finally, that its execution activates internal reinforcement processes in the animal. The model has been applied to two California sea lions and three South American sea lions of Madrid ZooAquarium, showing a decrease in the 'effort' inherent to training, the use of primary reinforcements and in training time. Moreover, it has been achieved that training sessions and exhibitions turn out more rewarding for the animals, therefore we recommend incorporating cognitive-emotional processes to the training of these and other species.

LARGE REPERTOIRE OF BEHAVIOR TRAINING WITH HARBOR SEALS IN A MULTIPLE SPECIES CONTEXT.

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Seaquarium is an aquarium located in south of France. It host 5 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), all born in the facility. They are age from 8 months to 3 years old. They all began their training program as soon as they were weaned. They live and are trained in a common pool with 3 Patagonian sea lion (*Otaria flavescens*). Day after day, they learn different kinds of behavior like medical, dynamic, cognitive exercises, which are used to take care of them or for pedagogic presentations. Harbor seals know approximately 30 behaviors on 50. We use operant conditioning to teach them all behaviors. They are used to work alone, in group and with the Patagonian sea lions. They work in different place of the facility and in several rooms, on land or in water. They are part of our different pedagogic presentations. Seaquarium's harbor seals are so motivated and dynamic, that trainers get lots of work for the future.