Table of Contents

by the body and drives it to seek out nutrients. So, for our sandwich-eating example, we can say that humans eat sandwiches in response to hunger.

Development (or Ontogeny)

The development of behaviors can take many different forms. Animals can either learn a behavior or can be born with the knowledge to engage in the behavior. With regard to the example of eating a sandwich, we can ask if the behavior was learned or if the human started life with the ability to make sandwiches. In this case, it must have been learned because infants don't have the ability to make or eat a sandwich. We can further probe and ask who taught the human the behavior and how the behavior developed. Sandwich-eating behavior in humans looks very different over the course of a human's lifetime. As babies, humans may only eat parts of the sandwich before learning from others how to assemble a sandwich. The first time you made a sandwich yourself, you probably used only one or two ingredients, and then, as you gained sandwich-making experience, you may have made more complex sandwiches. Humans can also learn about different ways to make a sandwich from each other. Sandwich-eating behavior is a learned behavior in this case, and humans are not born knowing how to make sandwiches.

HOW BEHAVIOR IS MEASURED AND STUDIED

The field of animal behavior requires a lot of planning and consideration to avoid bias. **Anthropomorphism** occurs when the behavior of animals is viewed through the lens of human behavior. Just because we may feel happy being around other people does not mean that all animals will experience the same feeling being around members of their own species. Sometimes, animals perform a behavior that can be interpreted by humans as being similar to a human behavior, but it has different contextual meanings for the animal. For example, chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) bare their teeth as an act of submission when they are fearful while a similar gesture done by humans expresses happiness in a smile (Figure 15). It is common to empathize with animals by comparing their behavior to our own, but this can conflict with factual evidence. This is a form of bias that can cause incorrect interpretations of the behavior of animals.

FIGURE 15

*Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) bare their teeth as an act of submission when they are fearful.*[15]