

Social Behaviours: Social Hierarchy

Many animals live in social groups and have adapted their behaviour to group living.

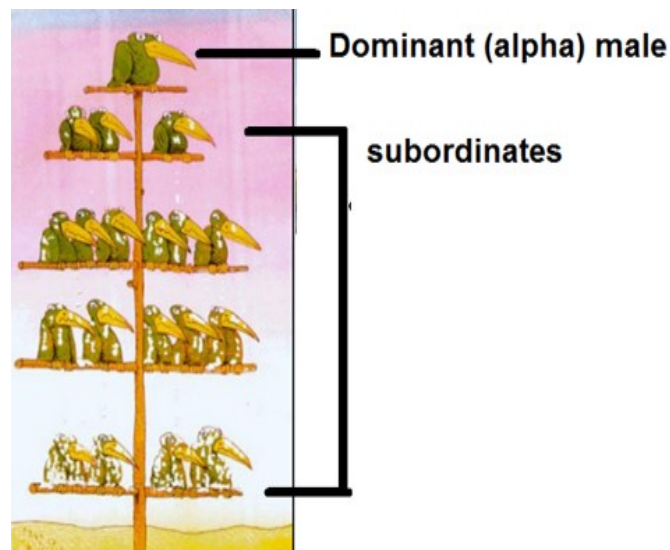
3 types of Social behaviours

1. Social Hierarchy
2. Cooperative Hunting
3. Social defence

1. Social Hierarchy

This is a rank/pecking order within a group of animals to reduce conflict consisting of

1. Dominant individuals carry out ritualistic displays.
2. Subordinate individuals carry out appeasement behaviour.



Advantages of Social Hierarchies

1. Increase dominant male's favorable genes being passed on to offspring.
2. Guarantees strong leadership.
3. Reduced conflict in group

Primates

Parental Care

Primates have a long period of parental care to enable time for primates to learn complex social behaviours.

4 types of complex social behaviours

These behaviour support the social hierarchy by **reducing conflict between dominant & subordinates**

Complex Social Behaviour	Ritualistic Display (dominant anima)	Appeasement behavior (subordinate animal)
1.Body posture	Beating chest Hunched Swaggering	Lie flat Lie on back Expose neck and belly
2. Facial Expressions	Growling Snarling Showing teeth	Hide teeth Whimper
3.Sexual presentations	Show genitals	Hide genitals
4.Grooming	Groomed by lower rank	Groom higher ranks

Alliances

Low rank females form alliances with higher ranking females by grooming high rank offspring.

Advantage

Increases social status of low rank females.

This allows them better access to food/ mates

Cooperative Hunting and Defence

Co-operative Hunting

When a group of animals hunt together to kill a prey.

Benefits BOTH subordinate animals as well as dominant animal.

Advantages of Co-operative Hunting

1. Catch larger prey
2. Increases the chance of hunting success
3. Less energy used per individual
4. Gain more food than by foraging/hunting alone

Social Defence Strategies

1. Adopt specialised formations when under attack (birds/fish)

EXAMPLES

1. mobbing
2. Bird/Fish deflection display

Advantage

1. Young protected
2. Confuses predator making it harder to pick off a single prey in large group.

2. Lookouts

Some individuals watch for predators whilst others can spend longer foraging for food.

Advantage

This increases the chance of survival by

1. avoiding predation
2. spending a longer period eating/foraging.