GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-13): Concept of Animal Behaviour
Zoo-GE-13

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course	Department offering the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical			
Concept of Animal Behaviour Zoo-GE-13	**04**	**02**	**Nil**	**02**	**Passed Class XII with Biology/ Biotechnology**	**NIL**	**Zoology**

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

- to familiarize the students with the scientific study of the behaviour of animals.
- to enable students to link behaviour patterns to the brain, genes, and hormones, as well as to the surrounding ecological and social environments.
- to acquire knowledge of aggression, the chase of the hunter and the flight of the hunted, the spinning of webs, the digging of burrows, and the building of nests or remaining motionless and concealed.
- to provide a good understanding of various concepts in animal behaviour.
- to motivate students to pursue a career in animal behaviour.

Learning Outcomes

By studying this course, students will be able to

- better understand the various types of animal behaviour and their importance.
- enhance their observation skills, analytical skills, scientific interpretation and documentation skills.
- enable students to evaluate the characteristic features of animal life including static postures, active movements, noises, smells, changes in colour and shape.
- realise, appreciate and develop passion to biodiversity and respect the nature and its surroundings.

SYLLABUS OF GE-13

UNIT- 1: Introduction to Animal Behaviour **4 hrs**

Origin and history of ethology, Pioneers of modern ethology: Karl von Frisch, Ivan Pavlov, Konrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen, Four Questions for Ethology.

UNIT- 2: Patterns of Behaviour **7 hrs**

Innate behaviour, Instinct, Sign stimuli, Code breakers, Learning: associative learning and non-associative learning, Classical and operant conditioning, Habituation, Imprinting.

UNIT- 3: Communication **3 hrs**

Importance of communication; Role of Chemical, Tactile, Auditory, Visual stimuli in communication.

UNIT- 4: Social Behaviour **7 hrs**

Concept of Society, Social insects (Honeybee as example), Bee communication, Altruism & Reciprocal altruism, Inclusive fitness, Hamilton's rule.

UNIT- 5: Sexual Behaviour **9 hrs**

Sexual dimorphism, mate choice; Intra-sexual selection (male rivalry); Inter-sexual selection (female choice); Courtship behaviour, Parental care, sexual conflict in parental care, Infanticide.

Practical **(60 hrs)**

(Laboratory periods: 15 classes of 4 hours each)

1. To study nests and nesting behaviour of the birds and social insects.
2. To study the behavioural responses of wood lice to dry and humid conditions.
3. To study geotaxis behaviour in earthworm.
4. To study the phototaxis behaviour in insect larvae.
5. Study of different tools, techniques and methods used in preparing ethogram.
6. To study courtship behaviour in insects and birds from short videos/movies.

Essential/recommended readings

1. Alcock, J. (2013) Animal Behaviour, Xth Edition, Sinauer Associates Inc., USA.
2. Manning, A. and Dawkins, M. S, (2012) An Introduction to Animal Behaviour, VIth Edition, Cambridge University Press, UK
3. McFarland, D. (1985) Animal Behaviour, Pitman Publishing Limited, London, UK

Suggestive readings

1. Rubenstein, D. (2022) Animal Behavior, XIIth Edition, Sinauer Associates, Oxford University Press, UK.
2. Gadagkar, R. (2021) Experiments in Animal Behaviour: Cutting-Edge Research at Trifling Cost, Indian Academy of Sciences.

NOTE: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.