

CHAPTER 7

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Investigating behaviour:

Behaviour can be investigated in the ‘field’ or in the laboratory. It can be observed and measured, and experiments can be designed to test how it works.

Human behaviour is affected by many variables.

Investigations in the field

Some scientists spend many hours watching and studying the behaviour of animals.

They may be interested in how the animals live alone, group into families or form large groups such as herds.

Tagging

You have studied about bird migration in the chapter biodiversity and its conservation.

Like birds some other animals also migrate over large distances to find food or nesting sites.

Animals can be ‘tagged’ by attaching tracking devices to them.

Activity-1

Let us observe the following behaviours of different animals. Identify their imprinting, instinct, conditioning or imitation.

- Our pet dog barks only on strangers.
- Ants which usually go in a line reach sweet kept in a tin.
- Mosquitoes, cockroaches come out of their places only when it is dark.
- Bats and owl move and search for food only during night .
- When you untie the neck of your bull at the time of ploughing, it moves towards plough without any instructions.

