
Principles of Animal Behavior. *William N. Tavolga.* Harper and Row, Publishers, New York, Evanston and London, (paper back), 1969. 143 pp.

Principles of Animal Behavior compares very favorably with the several condensed books on behavior published in recent years. Dr. Tavolga, in his introduction, stresses the importance of a developmental approach to the study of behavior which can act as a unifying principle in relating the elements of heredity, maturation, and environment into a complete pattern of behavior. His historical review is well conceived and gives a good coverage of the development of behavior and of comparative psychology.

The text contains chapters on methodology, sensory capacities, integration, species-typical behavior, and experience and development of behavior. The discussion of these topics is made quite understandable by the use of well-chosen illustrations.

A slightly expanded section on social behavior would increase the value of the work. Its chief weakness seems to be the tendency to underplay the importance of genetics in the behavior complex.

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