

Careers in Animal Behavior

University Programs

Graduate Training (Master's and PhD)

There are hundreds of graduate programs that provide academic training related to animals. Many of these programs focus on basic research that is done in a lab setting. Examples of areas of study include: animal communication, applied ethology, behavioral ecology, ethology, natural history, social behavior, experimental psychology and zoology.

Within these categories, a graduate student can work on projects such as the vision of insects, reproductive habits of birds, choice of habitats for fish, sexual behavior in different species, aggression in specific species, sensory mechanisms, etc. If, in addition to the department's curriculum, a faculty is willing to allow a student to gain experience and participate in projects related to applied animal behavior, these degree programs may be well-suited for preparing students who desire a career in animal behavior. For a list of these programs, see the Animal Behavior Society web page at www.animalbehavior.org

APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAMS

The programs below have provided students with the opportunity to do applied (real-world, non-lab) work in animal behavior. Because faculty members move and retire and research projects may change over time, when deciding on a graduate school it is important to interview faculty and visit the school.

These are at accredited universities; these are not online programs.

Auburn University

Auburn, Alabama

Cynthia A. McCall, PhD

334-844-1556

cmccall@acesag.auburn.edu

Applied ethology, Learning and Social behavior. Secondary reinforcement in horse training, learning ability in horses.

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ

Irene M. Pepperberg, PhD

520-621-8883

impepper@u.arizona.edu

Learning/cognition, development of communication in birds, African Grey Parrot.

University of California - Davis

Davis, CA

Lynette A. Hart, PhD

530-752-7722

lahart@ucdavis.edu

Applied ethology – companion animals and wildlife, human-animal interactions.

Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA

Graduate Studies in Animal Behavior

570-577-1200

www.bucknell.edu/AnimalBehavior

This program in animal behavior is administered by the departments of biology and psychology. The program is intended primarily for those who hope to earn a Ph.D. or wish to amplify their expertise in an animal-related career, such as laboratory research, field research, or conservation biology. Although much of the coursework is lab-based, some of the students who have completed this program are working in applied areas.

University of California- San Diego

La Jolla, CA

Edmund Fantino, PhD

619-452-3927

efantino@ucsd.edu

Operant Conditioning, learning, reinforcement (pigeons)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, GA

M. Jackson Marr, PhD

404-894-2635

mm27@prism.gatech.edu

Operant conditioning, schedules of reinforcement, applications of behavior analysis at Zoo Atlanta

University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)

Degree program in applied animal behavior.

The Master of Science in Biology degree offers a specialization in Applied Animal Behavior. This is an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental program administered through the Masters in Biology Program, with adjunct support from the ASPCA (www.aspc.org). It is designed to provide graduate training for careers in applied animal behavior, including academia; companion animal behavior consulting; shelter behavior; training and enrichment for animal shelters, zoo, laboratory and livestock animals; and commercial pet care industries.

Indiana University

Center for Integrative Study of Animal Behavior

Bloomington, IN

William Timberlake, Ph.D.

812-855-4042

timberla@indiana.edu

Animal behavior and learning theory, supervised animal behavior projects in zoos.

Mount Holyoke College

South Hadley, MA

Karen L. Hollis, PhD

413-538-2296

khollis@mtholyoke.edu

Learning, conditioning, classical conditioning (fish)

City University of New York/City College (CUNY)

New York, New York

Joseph G. Griswold, PhD (retired faculty)

212-650-8461

jggris@comcast.net

Social behavior and communication in dogs, has worked with shelter dogs

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Katherine A. Houpt, DVM, PhD

607-253-3450

kah3@cornell.edu

Veterinary behaviorist, works with horses, dogs, other domestic animals

Duke University

Durham, NC

John (J.E.) Staddon, PhD

919-660-5725

staddon@psych.duke.edu

Operant conditioning, work is theoretical and experimental (lab based)

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN

John C. New, DVM

615-546-5576

jnew@utk.edu

Therapeutic use of companion animals (animal-assisted therapy)

Texas A & M University

College Station, TX

Bonnie Beaver, DVM

409-845-2351

bbeaver@cvm.tamu.edu

Behavior problems in domestic animals, environmental enrichment

University of Texas at Arlington

Arlington, TX

James Kopp, PhD

817-273-3237

kopp@uta.edu

Operant conditioning, learning, reinforcement, schedules of reinforcement

Washington State University

Pullman, WA

Frances K. McSweeney, PhD

509-335-3049

fkmc@mail.wsu.edu

Learning-reinforcement, work is mostly experimental (lab); has been on the advisory board for the journal *Animal Learning and Behavior*.

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

Kennon A. Lattal, PhD

304-293-2001 x 608

klattal@wvu.edu

Behavioral theory, pet behavior, animal behavior problems, supervises research on animal behavior problems (dogs, cats)