

Behavior Analysis

Antecedents are those things in an environment that occur before a behavior and predicts the behavior's occurrence. Not all things in an environment are relevant antecedents, only those which directly predict the behavior.

Behavior occurs in the presence of certain environmental stimuli (**Antecedents**) in order to achieve certain results (**Consequences**).

Consequences are either REINFORCEMENT, meaning the behavior that occurred directly before it was strengthened, or is more likely to occur again, or PUNISHMENT, meaning the behavior that occurred directly before it was weakened, or is less likely to occur again in the presence of the antecedent.

What are the ABCs? If A, when B, then C.

An example:

If I pick up the leash, when my dogs come to me, then we go for a walk.

REMEMBER:

- Behavior has function
- Future behavior is determined by past consequences
- Arranging the right environment (antecedents) make the desired behavior more likely.

Case Study-

Ellen's puppy, Bruno, is very mouthy. He bites her ankles and pulls on her pant legs when she walks into a room. She has tried pushing him away, telling him "no" and yelping like a puppy, and pulling her pants away from him but he only gets more excited and bites more often and harder! He does this more often at night but it is happening more frequently as he gets older.

What are the ABCs? If A, when B, then C.

Antecedent (What occurred directly before the behavior?)

Behavior (What observable behavior did the puppy do?)

Consequence (What occurred immediately following the behavior that either reinforced or punished it?)

How can we change the antecedents and consequences that occur to change the behavior?