

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-

Steve's puppy, Pluto, is very talkative! He barks at Steve when he is sitting in his recliner watching TV. Steve tells him "no" and "quiet", asks him to lay down, pets him on the belly, then tries to ignore him. But Pluto is persistent, and after a couple of minutes Steve can't stand it anymore and gets up to get a frozen stuffed Kong out of the fridge. Pluto chews on the Kong until it is cleaned out, Steve gets a moment of peace, but when Pluto finishes his Kong, he starts barking again!

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?