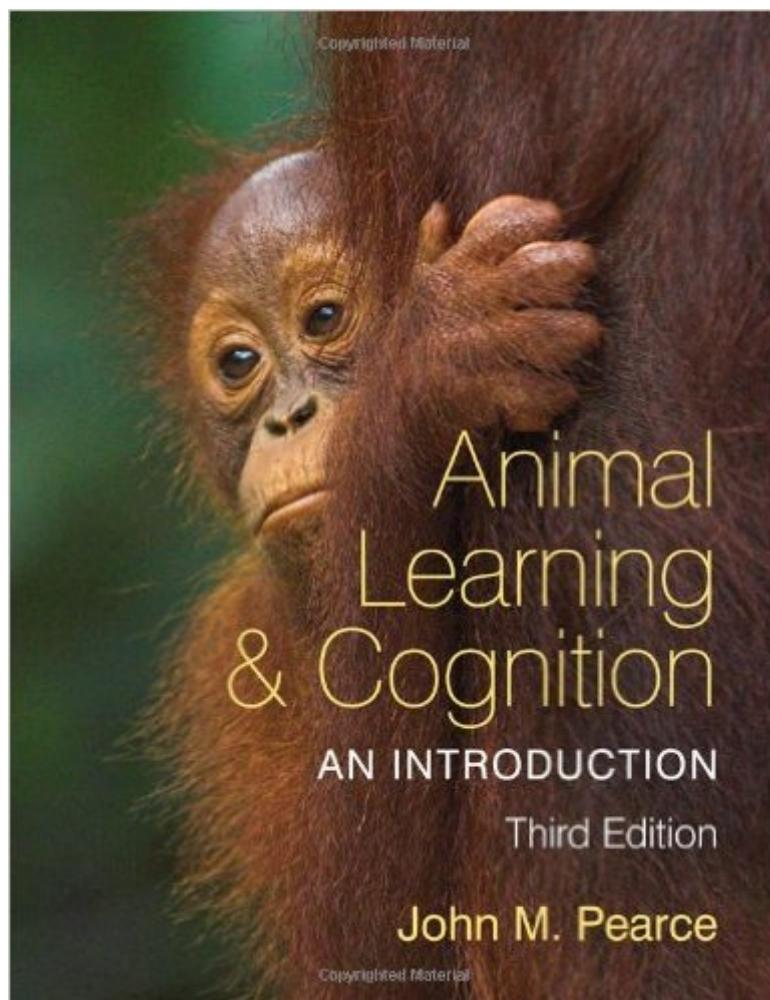


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Animal Learning And Cognition, 3rd Edition: An Introduction



Synopsis

Animal Learning and Cognition: An Introduction provides an up-to-date review of the principal findings from more than a century of research into animal intelligence. This new edition has been expanded to take account of the many exciting developments that have occurred over the last ten years. The book opens with a historical survey of the methods that have been used to study animal intelligence, and follows by summarizing the contribution made by learning processes to intelligent behavior. Topics include Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning, discrimination learning, and categorization. The remainder of the book focuses on animal cognition and covers such topics as memory, navigation, social learning, language and communication, and knowledge representation. Expanded areas include extinction (to which an entire chapter is now devoted), navigation in insects, episodic memory in birds, imitation in birds and primates, and the debate about whether primates are aware of mental states in themselves and others. Issues raised throughout the book are reviewed in a concluding chapter that examines how intelligence is distributed throughout the animal kingdom. The broad spectrum of topics covered in this book ensures that it will be of interest to students of psychology, biology, zoology, and neuroscience. Since very little background knowledge is required, the book will be of equal value to anyone simply interested in either animal intelligence, or the animal origins of human intelligence. This textbook is accompanied by online instructor resources which are free of charge to departments who adopt this book as their text. They include chapter-by-chapter lecture slides, an interactive chapter-by-chapter multiple-choice question test bank, and multiple-choice questions in paper and pen format.

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Psychology Press; 3 edition (February 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841696560

ISBN-13: 978-1841696560

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 7.4 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #297,483 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Experimental Psychology #104 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Experimental Psychology #198 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics

Customer Reviews

The back of this book rattles off praise for this book by eminent researchers in the field of comparative psychology. But I fear this praise is due more to a "if you scratch my back then I will scratch yours" type of effect. To get to the point quicker here are some of the pros and cons I noted when reading this book for my psych class:

Pros:-Book is organized well.-Plenty of coloured pictures.-In paperback

Cons:-Descriptions of many of the experiments are too vague in many cases.-Certain major theories are ignored. (e.g. Groves and Thompson Dual-Process Theory of Habituation and Sensitization is not talked about. Also, the precise (and observable) Nobel Prize winning biological processes involved in habituation, sensitization, and classical conditioning, which were demonstrated by Kandel in his experiments with the Aplysia, are not appealed to.)-He misquotes Skinner and as a consequence accuses Operant Theory of being circular when it is in fact not. Operant Theory can only be considered circular when its specific terms are applied incorrectly. Considering Pearce's status in the field this is a very surprising mistake.-He is not up-to-date on hippocampal place cell research.-Emphasis is put on cognitive factors and not on neurological factors, which is unfortunate given the huge amount of neurological research done with animals.-Pearce tends to, whether he is aware of it or not, anthropomorphise, but he hides it behind sophisticated terminology frequently used by cognitive psychologists.-There seems to be a overly strong preference (bias perhaps?) for research by Rescorla, Wagner, and Pearce.-There is no glossary provided at the end of the book.

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