**[Ethicaly testing Zoosemiotics]**

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Zoosemiotics, animal behavior, and ethical.

**[**The scientific article “Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioral research and teaching” talks about the ethics of studying animal behavior through different techniques. Testing and/or observing for Zoosemiotics (also known as the study of animal behavior) have many protocols that must be followed. These are to insure the safety and comfort of the test subject. This topic is important because it keeps people from preforming animal cruelty. It causes people to go through a process of justification for what they are doing not only for the animal’s safety but also for cost efficiency. Today there are many different types of requirements and justifications they must meet to study or observe test subjects which is great progress as compared to history. Although this community has come a long way, it is important to note that there can still be more done to help insure the safety and quality of life for these test subjects. Such as making sure that things are not done only because it is more cost effective. The study of animal behavior has come a long way there is always room for improvement to be made as we continue to learn more about how to properly accommodate animals.**]**

**Introduction**

[Zoosemiotics also known as the study of animal behavior, has been at practice for many years. Through these years there have been many questionable instances of ethicality. This study requires the researchers to report to officials what they want to do and reasons as to why it is ethical and cost efficient. There are three ways of observing/testing animal behavior that branch off into other sub categories. The most ethical but not always possible way is by researching past experiments, using computers, and simulations. One other way is observing wild animals in their natural habitat. This can be done by watching the animals from a distance without any interference. It can also involve marking an animal with something such as a tag. This marking would need to be noninvasive in order to not affect their natural behavior. There are many rules and regulations that must be followed in order to conduct this type of study. These are done to protect the animal and insure that it can continue a natural life without interference that might alter the way they do things. Another way of studying animal behavior is in a lab. This can be more difficult as there are many steps. Some of these steps are finding an ethical way to collect the animals you need, how many are needed, proper living conditions, marking, termination or release at the end of the experiment, and etc. “Knowledge of an individual animal’s previous experience, such as whether or not it has spent a lifetime in captivity, is also important.” (Elsevier 2) Currently there are many programs around to help researchers become informed of ethical ways to handle animal behavior testing such as “the Association for the Study of Animal Behavior and the Animal Behavior Society have formed Ethical and Animal Care Committees, respectively, and each appoints an Ethics Editor that serves on the editorial board of Animal Behaviour” (Elsevier 1) Having programs such as these are helpful in many ways to keep testers/observers ethical.

**Recent Progress**

[In the past there have been many unethical animal behavior testing and observation acts. Some of the ways people did this was by paying people to trap animals for their research in a stressful and harmful way, marking animals in a harmful and invasive way, not keeping testing areas up to sanitary needs of the animals, running harmful and toxic testing, disposing of poisoned animals to where scavengers would get effected second hand, and etc. However, over the years there have been many changes and regulations to help keep these animals safe and ethically protected. One of these are being required to make and present a proposal to the proper people outlining what they plan to do. These people will then read and look at guidelines set by accredited organization to determine whether or not their experiment is ethical and feasible. If it does not meet standards their proposal will be rejected and they will be told what they can do differently in order to have an ethical experiment. Recently there have been many more programs put out to inform testers/ observers of the regulations put in place in order to keep research involving living creatures ethical.]

**Discussion**

[These changes that have been made to make zoosemiotics more ethical have been a validated process for the community. These protocols have not only helped insure that animals are ethically handled, but they have also helped make research more accurate. By insuring that animals are not stressed or interfered with as much there can be a more accurate observation of the true animal behavior that should be exhibited. Having a board who reviews research proposals is validated because they keep unethical experiments from being ran by rejection and suggesting other ways of testing. Some examples of suggestions they might give are using less animals, doing the research virtually, less invasive interactions, and etc. Working on effective cost to ethical experiment ratio could possibly be an issue in question. There is always more to be done as more information is observed on animal behavior. There can be more ethical ways of doing things since there will be more knowledge on what can be done to make the animal feel less interfered with.]

**References**

[2021, Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research and teaching, Elsevier, 171, 1]