CLASSICALLY CONDITION YOUR PET

Extra Credit Project

Task: Use the principles of classical conditioning to train your pet to perform a certain behavior.

Directions: Design and implement a classical conditioning procedure where your pet will associate a biological response to a stimulus of some kind, as well as one of the extensions discussed in class (generalization, discrimination, spontaneous recovery, or higher-order conditioning). Afterward, compose a paper where you identify your process and label all of the appropriate terminology (US, UR, NS, CS, CR, and extension). Be sure to extinguish the conditioning later if it’s an undesired behavior.

• BE SURE NOT TO MIX THIS UP WITH OPERANT CONDITIONING! CLASSICAL CONDITIONING INVOLVES A BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ONLY! THERE SHOULD BE NO REWARD OR PUNISHMENT INVOLVED. IF YOU MIX THESE UP, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO AND BOTH YOU AND I WILL BE SAD.

Terminology to be Labeled:

• Unconditioned Stimulus (unlearned stimulus that will cause a biological response in the animal)
• Unconditioned Response (unlearned biological response that happens automatically to the stimulus)
• Neutral Stimulus (a stimulus that the animal will come to condition to a behavior)
• Conditioned Stimulus (the neutral stimulus that has now been conditioned in the animal)
• Conditioned Response (the previously unlearned biological response that now happens in reaction to the CS)
• Extension implemented (generalization, discrimination, spontaneous recovery, or higher-order conditioning)

Paper Requirements: I care more about content than actual paper mechanics, but in general write your paper like any other you would for school: 1” margins, appropriate formatting and grammar, etc. Some kids can perfectly describe something in one sentence while others might need a paragraph (this does not mean your paper should be a short as a paragraph; I’m just giving an example). As long as I feel you’ve exhaustively identified and explained each of the elements required, the length is fine.

RUBRIC:

_____ / +2 points: needs to be about classical rather than operant conditioning, includes description of procedure followed, includes labeling of the US, UR, NS, CS, CR, and extension, includes extinction if necessary

Total: _____ / 2 extra credit points