

Introduction to the Veterinary Profession

VETS30030 / VETS90122



Module: Care and welfare of domestic animals

Animal welfare

Lecture 2 Part 1

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Intended learning objective

- Describe the philosophical concepts involved in animal use and management by humans, and the varying concepts of animal welfare



What is animal welfare?

Animal welfare

An animal's state as regards its attempts to cope with its environment. This state includes how much it is having to do to cope, the extent to which it is succeeding in or failing to cope, and its associated feelings.

Welfare will vary over a continuum from very good to very poor.

Donald Broom, Cambridge University

What is animal welfare?

Animal welfare

means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress.

Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing.

Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

OIE definition: <http://www.oie.int/>



What is animal welfare?

Some suggested further reading:

Hewson, C.J. Can Vet J Volume 44, June 2003 p496-499.

ANIMAL WELFARE



BIEN-ÊTRE DES ANIMAUX

What is animal welfare? Common definitions and their practical consequences

Bien-être des animaux : quelques définitions et courantes et leurs incidences

Caroline J. Hewson

Introduction

In concluding my first article, I proposed that "...whatever we decide (about animal welfare) as a profession or as individuals, we must be knowledgeable" (1). In this and succeeding articles, some fundamental points will be covered, starting with what animal welfare is and how definitions affect the way animals are treated.



Dr./D^{re} Caroline Hewson

Introduction

J'ai conclu mon premier article en déclarant que «... peu importe ce qu'ils [les vétérinaires, au sujet du bien-être des animaux] décident individuellement et collectivement, leur choix doit être éclairé.» (1). Dans cet article et les suivants, j'aborderai certains points essentiels, comme la définition du bien-être des animaux et les incidences de cette définition sur la façon dont les animaux sont traités.

What is animal welfare?

The term "animal welfare" is being used increasingly by corporations, consumers, veterinarians, politicians, and others. However, the term can mean different things to different people. Understandably, in the past, veterinarians and farmers have seen animal welfare chiefly in terms of the body and the physical environment (shelter, feed, etc.) (2): if an animal is healthy and producing well, it is faring well. Research on aspects of animal welfare has also focused on the body, using physiological measures, such as endorphins, plasma cortisol, and heart rate, to examine how the animal is coping with its environment (3). However, there are limitations to seeing animal welfare only in terms of the body. One limitation is that sensation and the environment can produce

Comment définit-on le bien-être des animaux?

Le terme «bien-être des animaux» est de plus en plus employé par les entreprises, les consommateurs, les vétérinaires, les politiciens et d'autres. Toutefois, son sens diffère selon celui qui l'emploie. Par le passé, les vétérinaires et les fermiers envisageaient le bien-être des animaux sous l'angle physique (abri, nourriture, etc.) (2) : si l'animal était en santé et qu'il produisait bien, il allait bien. La recherche a porté sur des mesures physiologiques du bien-être des animaux, comme les endorphines, le cortisol plasmatique et le rythme cardiaque, pour déterminer comment les animaux s'adaptent à leur environnement (3).

What philosophies underpin animal welfare?

Animal welfarist point of view

the position that it is morally acceptable for humans to use non-human animals, provided that adverse effects on animal welfare are minimized as far as possible.

Clearly, positions can vary on what is acceptable!



What philosophies underpin animal welfare?

Jeremy Bentham: Utilitarian

the question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?



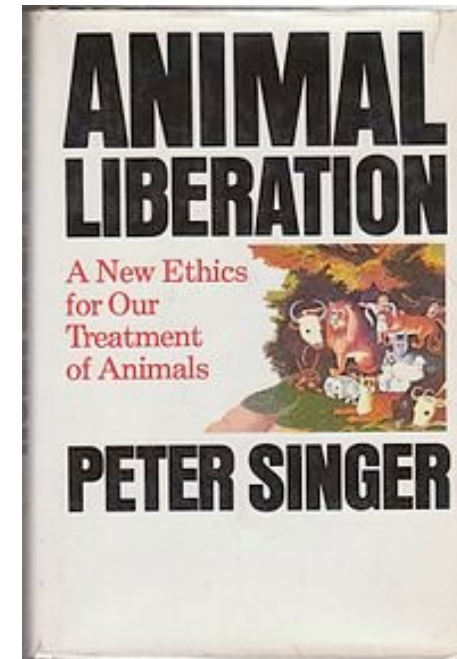
Utilitarianism :the right course of action is the one that maximizes the overall "good" consequences of the action. It is a form of 'consequentialism', meaning that the moral worth of an action is determined by its resulting outcome.

What philosophies underpin animal welfare?

Peter Singer: Utilitarian

Equal consideration of similar interests

COMING UP:



What philosophies underpin animal welfare?

Tom Regan, Professor emeritus of philosophy at North Carolina State University: Animal rights

Animals are "subjects-of-a-life," who have moral rights for that reason, and that moral rights ought not to be ignored.



Gary Francione, Professor of law and philosophy at Rutgers School of Law

Animals have one moral right, and need one legal one: the right not to be regarded as property. All else will follow.



Animal welfare and animal rights

- **Animal welfare** – the concern for an animal's wellbeing, associated with the concept that animals should be humanely treated and not unnecessarily suffer
 - Typically accepting of some animal utilisation by humans
 - Positions may vary on exactly *what* is acceptable
- **Animal rights** – a philosophical position that animals have inherent moral rights
 - Animal utilisation by humans contravenes the rights of animals
 - If animals consent to live with us (by their actions) then that can be ok

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 - If animals consent to live with us (by their actions) then that can be ok
- **Both positions can agree on the need to improve animal treatment, but tend to differ in their end goals**

Current concepts

- Checklists
- Animal welfare as a biological state
- Animal feelings



Checklists

Five Freedoms (FAWC, 1993)

Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition

Freedom from discomfort

Freedom from pain, injury and disease

Freedom to express normal behaviour

Freedom from fear and distress



Checklists

Five Obligations (NZ Animal Welfare)

Proper and sufficient food and water

Adequate shelter

The opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour

Appropriate physical handling

Protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, injury and disease.



Checklists

Pros

Simple and straightforward

Rapid screening test



Checklists

Pros

Simple and straightforward

Rapid screening test



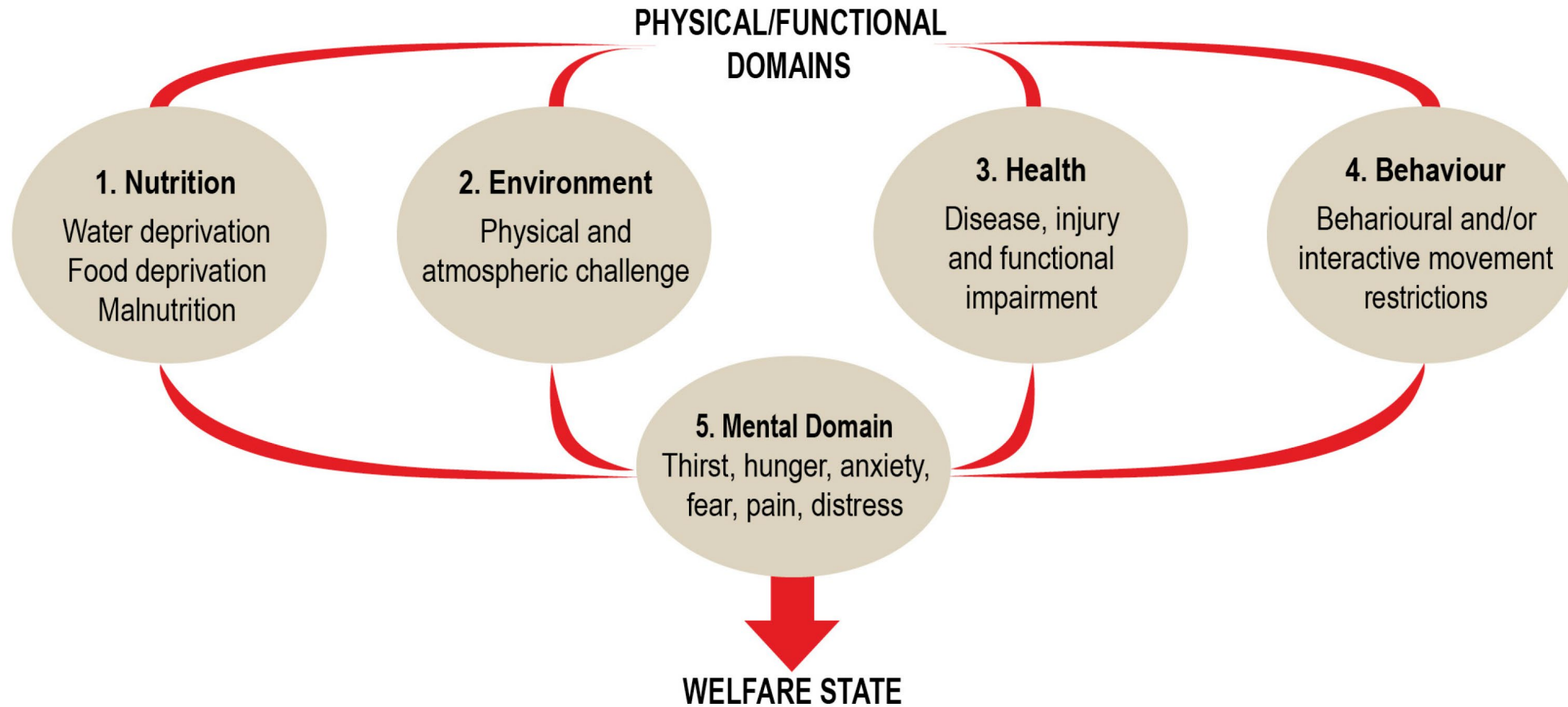
Cons

Simplistic

What are the normal levels of these components?

What are the consequences for the animal if they are not normal?

Five Domains



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Lecture 2 Part 2

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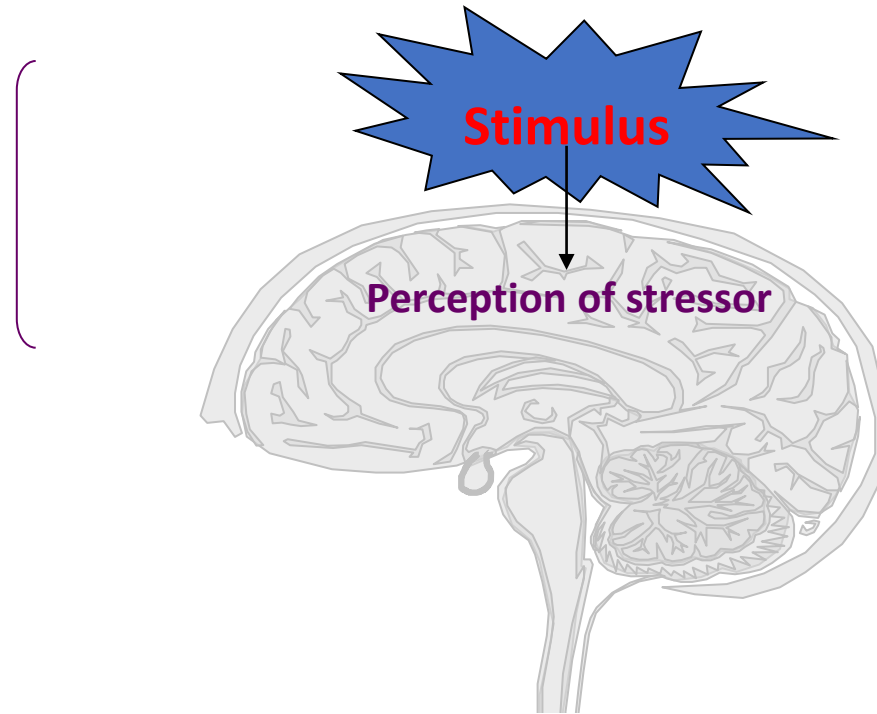
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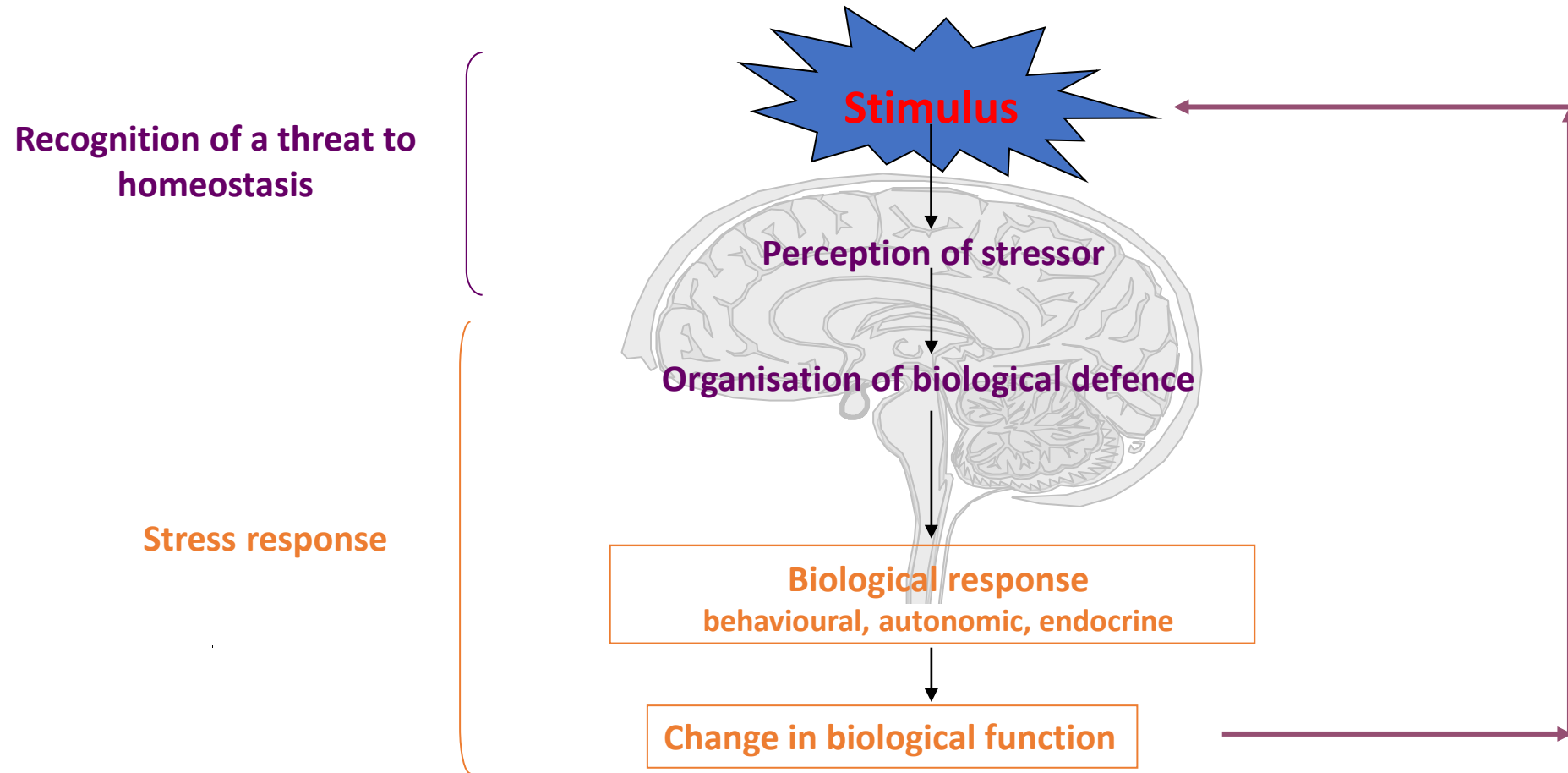
Animal welfare as a biological state

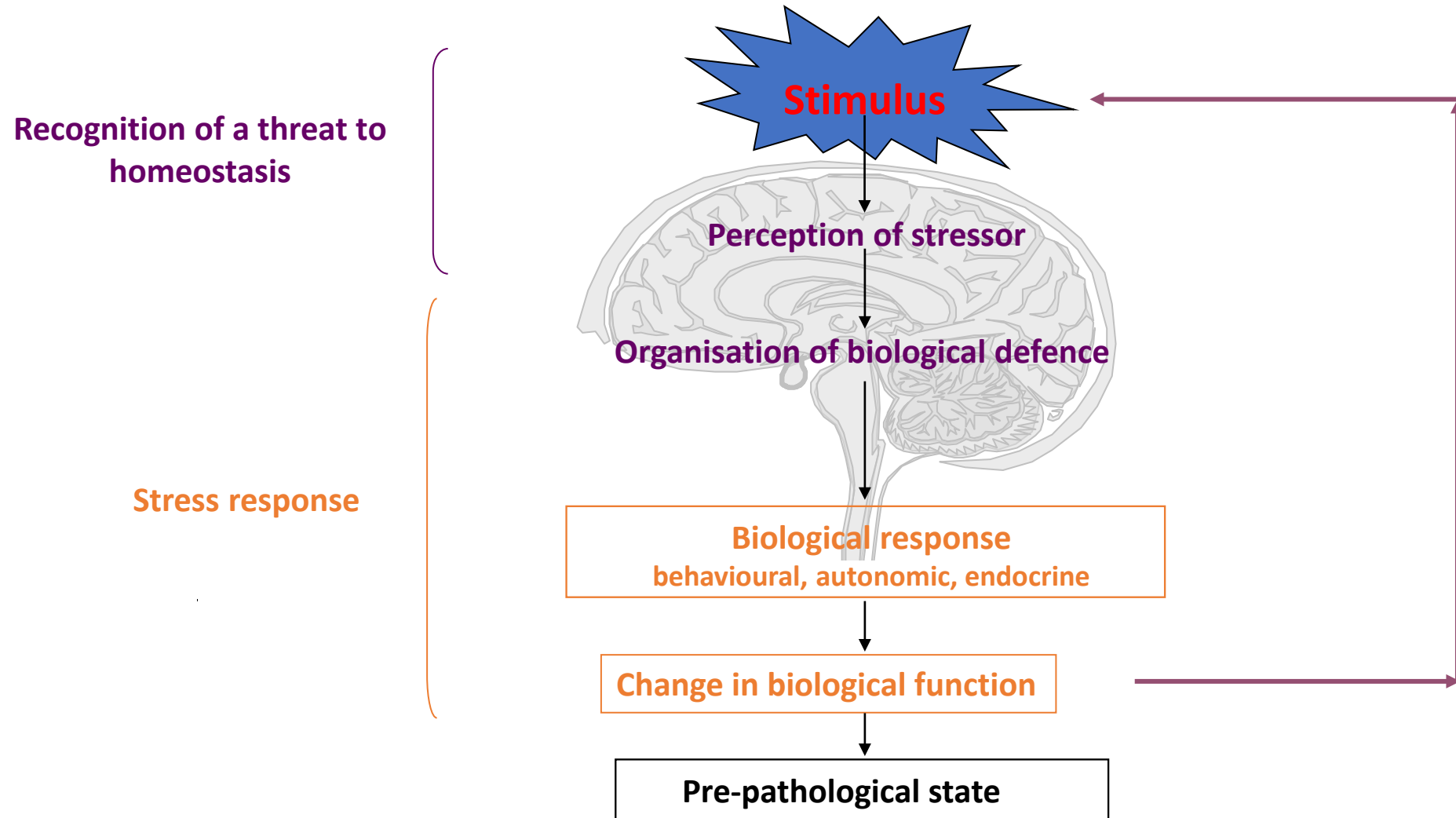
Homeostatic mechanisms act in response to stressors

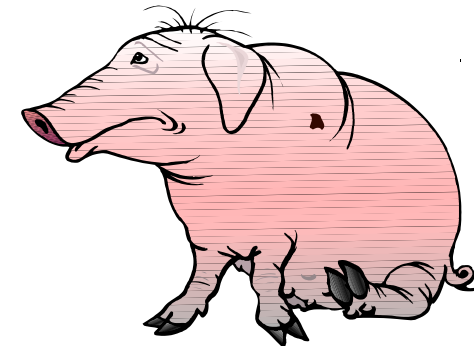
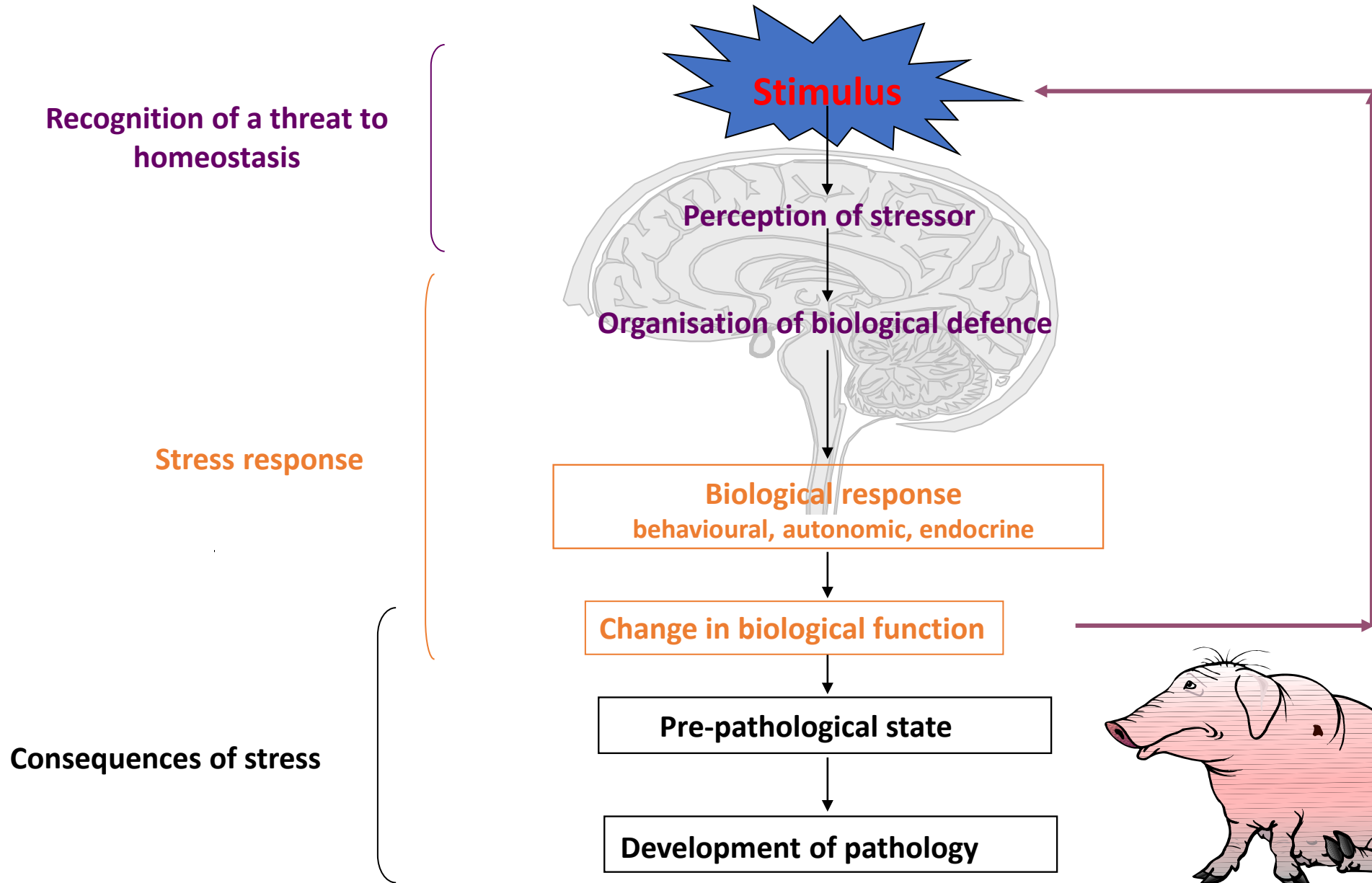
Adverse consequences for fitness if control mechanisms fail to cope adequately

Recognition of a threat to
homeostasis

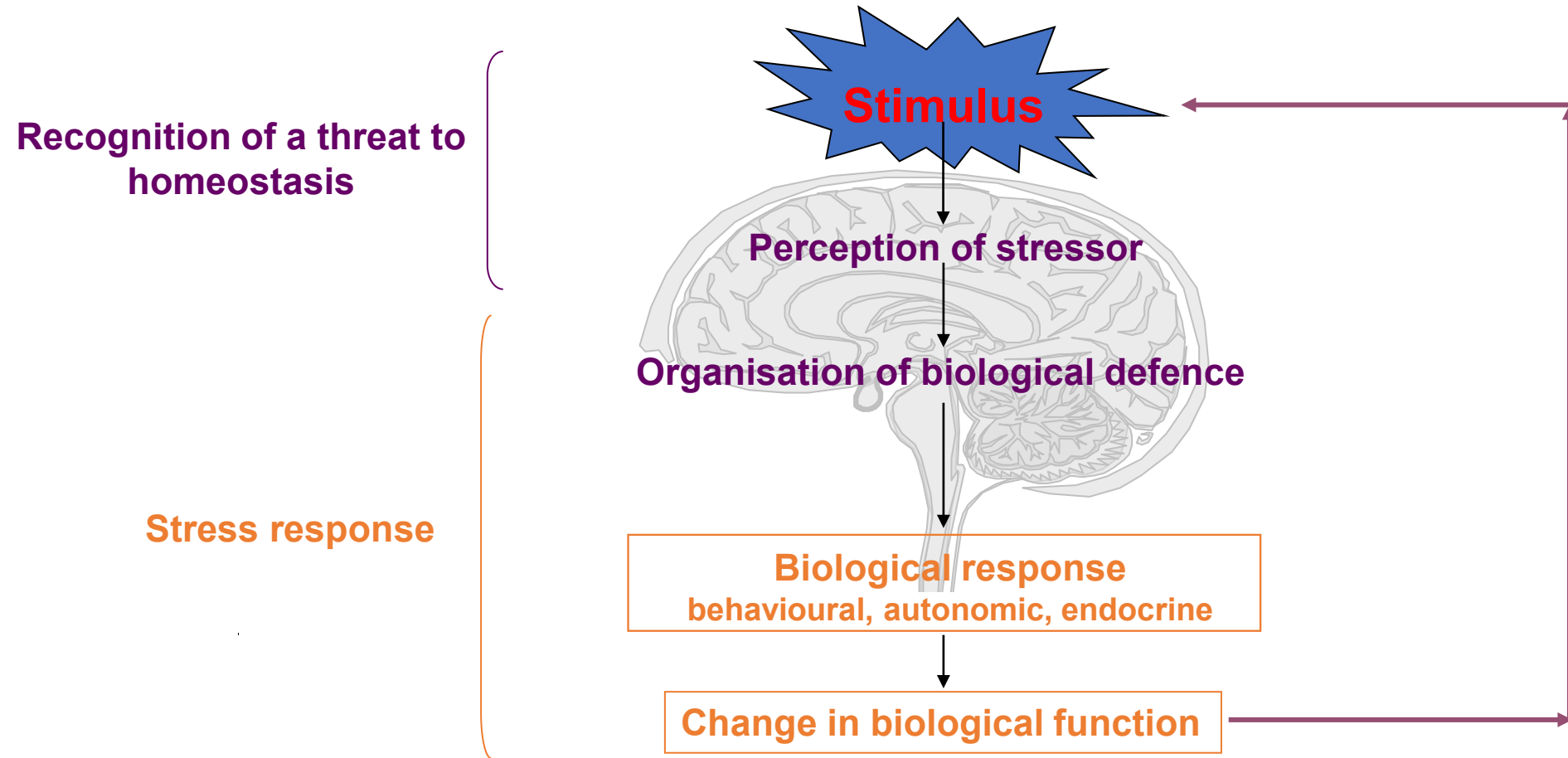


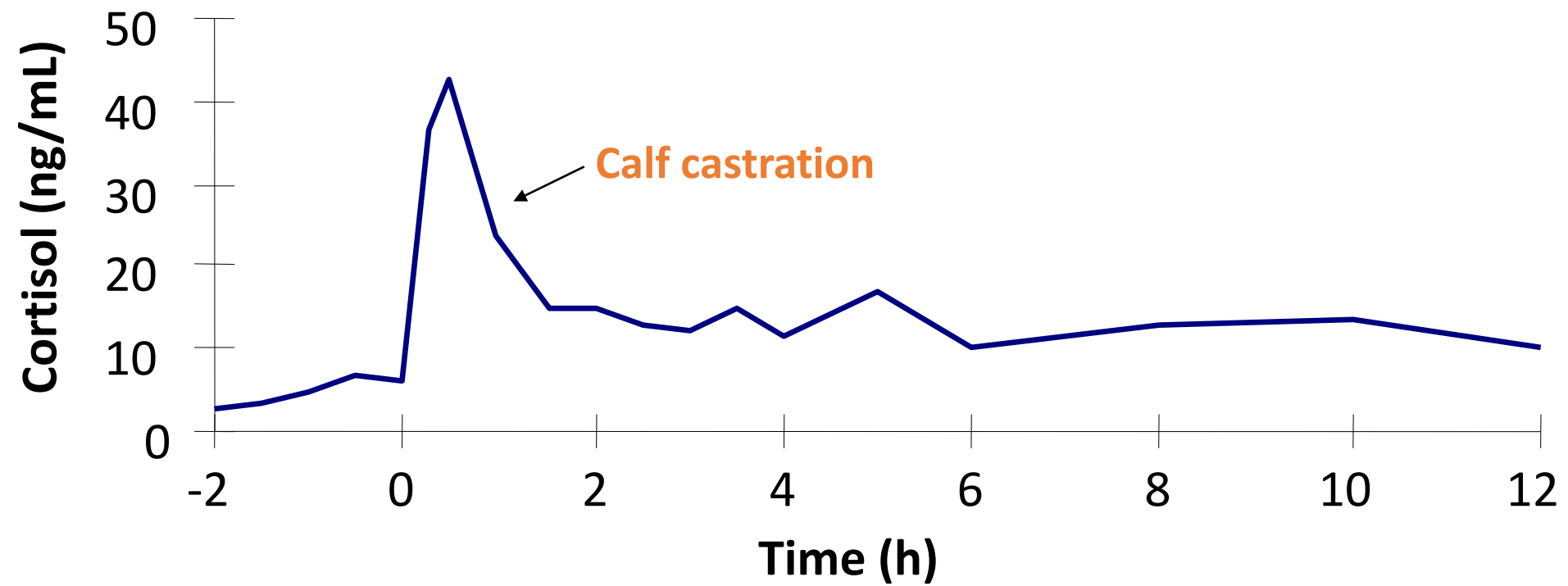






(Moberg, 1987)







Concept No. 3

Animal feelings

How an animal feels is the most important component of its welfare



Concept No. 3

Animal feelings

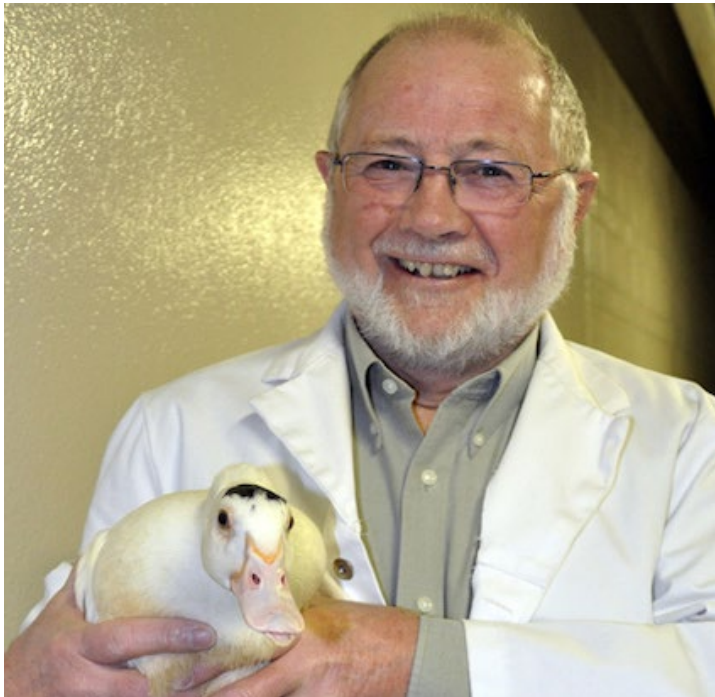
How an animal feels is the most important component of its welfare

- Animal sentience
- Animal preference
- Animal motivation



Concept No. 3

Animal feelings



<https://news.uoguelph.ca/category/news-in-brief/page/5/>



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



APPLIED ANIMAL
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Applied Animal Behaviour Science 100 (2006) 11–19

www.elsevier.com/locate/applanim

The changing concept of animal sentience

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Available online 18 May 2006

Abstract

A brief history of the concept of sentience is given. It is pointed out that the idea of sentience, at least in the mammals and birds, was accepted by lay people by the time of the Renaissance and before it was acknowledged by philosophers. It was not until the Enlightenment of the 18th century that philosophers started to accept the notion that animals have feelings. Towards the end of the 19th century, scientists and philosophers had developed a fairly sophisticated concept of sentience. Little consideration was given to sentience by scientists through much of the 20th century due to the inhibiting influence of Behaviourism. In the last quarter of the 20th century, there was a surge of interest in animal sentience, and animal welfare scientists quickly realised that welfare problems can be better tackled with an understanding of how animals feel. Methods to investigate indirectly how animals feel are described and areas requiring further elucidation are listed.

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Keywords: Animal welfare; Feelings; History; Methodology; Sentience

Concept No. 3

Animal feelings

Anim. Behav., 1983, 31, 1195–1205

BATTERY HENS NAME THEIR PRICE: CONSUMER DEMAND THEORY AND THE MEASUREMENT OF ETHOLOGICAL ‘NEEDS’

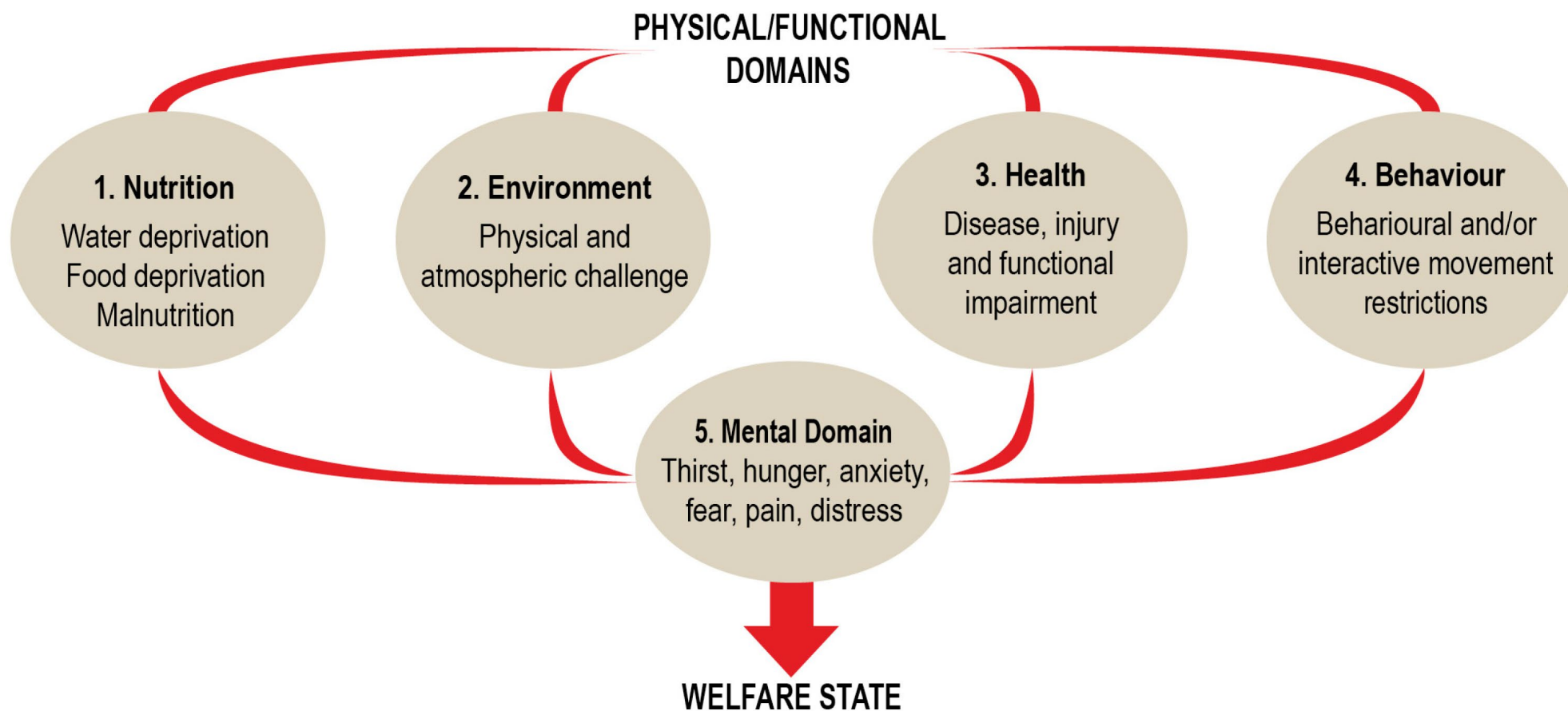
BY MARIAN STAMP DAWKINS

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Abstract. The concept of an ‘ethological need’ has assumed a prominent place in recent discussions of animal welfare, although the term itself is surrounded by confusion. It is here argued that some of this confusion might be overcome by applying consumer demand theory to some of the problems of animal welfare. As an example, the postulated ‘need’ of battery-caged hens to scratch and dustbathe is reinterpreted in this light, using the economic definition of a ‘necessity’. Two attempts to measure the value that hens put on access to litter are reported. In experiment 1, birds were required to make an instantaneous choice between food and litter under different degrees of food deprivation. In experiment 2, choices were observed over longer periods of time under changes of income (time available). In neither case was there evidence of hens regarding litter as a necessity but these results should be regarded only as preliminary.



Integrating the concepts – the Five Domains





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Lecture 2 - Summary

- Although a 'definition' of animal welfare may be widely argued upon, there is consensus that key concepts of animal welfare incorporate biological function and animal feelings about their situation
- An animal welfare viewpoint may not be the same as an animal rights viewpoint, although both may be interested in improvements to animal wellbeing
- Current approaches to animal welfare seek to integrate both biological function and animal sentience – e.g. the Five Domains.

