# Communication of Animals

Animals can communicate with each other by different methods. Following are some methods of communication

1. chemical communication
2. Audio "
3. Visual "

(1) chemical communication :—

(a) pheromones — (already given the note)

(b) Use of urine and faeces :—

urine or faeces of many animals have pheromones or scent through which they can communicate with conspecifics. Most common use is to identify or scent mark core area, home range, or territory. Some animals use urine and faces for identifying pathways, resting grounds, feeding grounds and sleeping sites

(b) Use of special glands :—

Anal gland — the commonest scent producing glands are anal glands. This type of glands found mainly in Monotremes, Marsupials and in few placentals.

(b) Salivary gland :— Saliva is a secretion available to all mammals, which has been used

as a marking agent by bears, dogs, pigs and a number of other animals

Miscellaneous — There are many other glands by which scent marking can be done. Roe deers, black bucks and Sambar rub facial glands found just below the eyes against trees to mark them. Thompson gazelles found in Africa mark their territory by depositing scent on long twigs and grass. In marmot, the scent glands occur in the area between eye and ear.

Auditory communication — communication based on sound is widely used in the animal kingdom.

Auditory communication is particularly important in birds, who used sound to convey warnings, attract mates, defend territories and co-ordinate group behaviours. Some birds also produce song, vocalizations that are relatively long and melodic and tend to be similar among the member of a species. Many non bird species also communicate using sound,

- Bull frogs croaks to attract female frog as mates. In some frog species the sound can be heard upto a mile away.
- Monkeys cry out warning when a predator is near giving the other member of the troop a chance to escape. Vervet monkeys ~~have~~ have different calls to indicate different predators.
- Gibbons use calls to mark their territory, keeping potential competitors away. A paired male and female and even their offspring may make the calls together.

Water, like air can carry sound waves and marine animal also use sound to communicate. Dolphins for instance produce various noises, including whistles, chirps and clicks, and arrange them in complex patterns. The idea that this

## Visual Communication

On animals visual communication involves signals that can be seen are — gesture, facial expressions, body posture and colouration. Gesture and posture are widely used visual signals. For instance chimpanzees communicate a threat by raising their arms, slapping the ground or staring directly at another chimpanzee. Gesture and posture are commonly used in mating rituals and may place other signals, such as bright colouring or display.

Facial expressions are also used convey information in some species. e.g. what is known as the fear grin — shown on the face of the young chimpanzee below - signals submission, this expression is used by chimpanzee

when she is in fertile stage. Bright colouration of some toxic species such as the poison dart frog act as do not eat warning signal to predators.

Tactile communication :— Tactile communication, or touch, is an important form of communication for many animals. Mother tigers lick and nuzzle their babies, chimpanzee groom each other and bear cubs wrestle with each other. Touch is used to comfort, to establish dominance and to establish bonds.

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