**Psy 480 Animal Cognition**

**Fall2020**

**Dr. Val Farmer-Dougan**

**Discussion Questions for Concept Formation 9/3/2020**

***Vonk, Jett & Mosteller (2012) Black Bears***

1. Why study black bears? That is, other than being interesting for the sake of being interesting, how does the study of concept formation in black bears help us understand both concept formation and black bears/related species?
2. What was the task? Did you know that bears can use the computer?
3. Could the bears make these concept categorizations? Were they better at concrete or abstract concepts? How does this compare to other animals (pigeons, gorillas, etc.)?

***Kastak & Schusterman (1994) Sea Lions***

1. What is an identity concept?
2. Did the sea lions learn conditional discriminations, or did they learn “Concepts”?
3. Why might it be important in the wild for sea lions to form concepts about objects, animals and plants in their environment? Can you think of any examples?

***Clark (2012) Care of Marine Animals***

1. What is the main problem/challenge in stimulating and providing an appropriate outlet for captive marine mammals?
2. What are some behavioral “problems” exhibited by marine mammals in captivity? How do these relate to natural habitat behaviors? How can caretakers remediate these behaviors?
3. Dolphins exhibit many cognitive abilities and perhaps even an awareness of self and others. What problems do these abilities create for caretakers?
4. After reading this, does your view of keeping marine mammals in captivity stay the same or change? Why?

***Huber, et al. (2013) Dogs and human faces***

1. Why is it critical for humans to identify faces? Do we have any innate detector neurons for identifying faces?
2. Describe the task (this will be important). How much training was required before the dogs actually got to the experiment?
3. What could the dogs discriminate? Given what you know about facial recognition and discrimination in these dogs…what might the effects of their humans (and other humans) wearing masks be on ability to discriminate faces?