

Ways to overcome aggressive manifestations of wild animals that arise during adaptation through life in society

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Abstract. People and animals have always coexisted. People are part of the animal world, they just sometimes forget about it and consider themselves the masters. Of course, the human part of the animal world is the most developed in the mental plan, which allowed it to move up so rapidly to occupy the top step of the evolutionary process. But animals and people are united by a single giant biocenosis, which, as a dynamic system, balances, maintaining equilibrium due to the correct interaction of its components. The fall of one brick of this giant structure, which is the animal world, will cause its destruction. Man is so actively, deeply and quickly interfering in the world of wildlife, occupying more and more territories for housing and his professional activities, which previously belonged entirely to wild animals, that they do not have time to adapt to the conditions of the presence of people and the conditions of ethnic location, which were changed by people in the process of activity. Humanity cannot be stopped in its desire for development in all understandings and manifestations. But it is imperative for people to realize that, dominating the animal kingdom and using their habitats, they must help wild animals adapt to changes caused by human activity in a territory that does not belong to them. Adaptive methods of establishing relationships should be used to build a balanced coexistence with wild animals. Using the example of the socialization of wild cats of South Africa (servals), some points that should be paid attention to and used when socializing servals are considered and suggested in order to avoid aggressive manifestations caused by human interference in the personal space of these animals.

Keywords: adaptation, socialization, wild cats, servals, bush cats.

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Introduction

Rapid scientific and technological progress, among its manifestations, has not only positive changes in everyday life, work, in the fields of health care, education and science, but also a negative impact on wildlife. To expand industrial and residential areas, large-scale seizure of free land is taking place, with the displacement of indigenous inhabitants from their natural habitats, including people (aborigines) or wild animals. Such persistent physical intervention in nature leads to changes in ecosystems and climate changes in large regions, with the subsequent extinction of indigenous representatives of the fauna. In response to urban encroachment and often incorrect intervention in ecosystems, some representatives of the animal world, which, due to their psychological and physical characteristics, occupy the status of leaders in ecosystems, can form in the mind an image of man as an enemy with a corresponding readiness for aggressive resistance. Such a problem arose a long time ago and scientists have accumulated enough information to present in scientific works in accordance with some species of predators. For example, the process of transforming tigers, leopards, wild cats, and lions into hunters for humans is well described. Animals with status in their environment seem to have started a guerrilla war on their territory against humans for their own rights, becoming so-called "man-eating animals" or "crazy" cats, the chance to establish friendly relations with which is lost forever for humans [1]. The problem of stopping the extinction process The conservation of predatory cats and the restoration of their population exist only in a single region of Africa. Concerned scientists insist on the development and implementation of programs for the conservation of tigers in different parts of the world, for example, tigers in Asia [2]. Also, such an interesting study was conducted on how the change of natural to urban landscape affects the spatiotemporal ecology of the South American coatis (*Nasua nasua*), which clearly proves the organic, psycho-physiological, social changes of various animal species in conditions of growing urbanization and loss of ethnic habitat [3]. Seizing territories for the construction of housing and industrial facilities, man is not limited only to the occupied territories, but also in some places transforms the adjacent ones, creating locations of pretty artificial landscape designs, not suitable for the habitat of indigenous fauna. There are animal species that do not fall into the category of adaptive, they prefer to change the location, thereby critically densifying in the new territory. It is important for specialists to know these places in order to create the right species management policy [4] with the aim of preserving and restoring populations. An excellent example of solving the problems of extinction of individual animal species in their own ecosystem, which was disturbed by the location of farmland, is encouraging owners to develop ecotourism in their territories. With the support of government programs, some farm owners in South Africa have created reserves to preserve the hyena population in their natural environment[5]. Some sociological studies have shown that older people are more aggressive about the presence of predators on their farms, despite the arguments of scientists and the prospect of favorable offers from the state [6]. The positive attitude of the younger generation of farmers, ready to create various mutually beneficial projects of coexistence with animals, understanding that they are the ones who need help in a world where everything increasingly depends on the presence and activity of humans, is encouraging. For some time now, the term "synurbation" has taken root in the lexicon, which means the process of adaptation of wildlife to the urban environment [7]. Many different representatives of wild fauna, having different morphology, origin, physiological characteristics, undergo this process individually and uniquely. This gives scientists reason to study the adaptive capabilities of absolutely every species of wild animal in order to coordinate the most appropriate path of socialization for each one, in order to preserve and restore every link in the chain of coexistence in nature.

The purpose of the article is to study the features and mechanisms of psychological adaptation of wild animals using the example of bush cats (servals) with the determination of

ways to overcome aggressive manifestations that arise when trying to adapt them to life in society.

Results

Servals are solitary hunters. They hunt mainly at night, quietly sneaking up to their prey almost up close in tall grass or bushes, thanks to their large ears and long legs. They behave non-aggressively in their own society. Clashes between members of the same group are very rare. In case of danger, servals resort to flight, abruptly changing direction, jumping high to the side, sometimes hiding in trees [8].

The natural enemies of servals are the African wild dog, crocodile, lion, hyena, but kittens can also be preyed upon by smaller predators, such as crayfish, snakes, and birds of prey. Servals are very cautious and distrustful, but they are not prone to unmotivated aggression. Wild cats are caring parents, arranging places for childbirth in old nests and burrows. Females feed their kittens with milk for a long time (5-7 months), and young females stay with their mother for much longer than young males, being under their care and acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills.

Zoopsychologists distinguish servals from other wild animals, focusing on their intelligence and mental abilities. Servals are considered loners, they live alone, equipping their own warm cozy hiding place, similar to a large bird's nest, where they want to return to rest and gain strength for the next hunt. Protecting their hiding place from outside interference, they mark the territory with urine and the secretion of aromatic glands, which are a type of sweat glands and secrete a specific secret enriched with proteins. This aphrodisiac has a unique individual composition and smell, which is read by other animals, clearly letting them understand the presence of the owner in this place. However, they are not removed from animal society and do not isolate themselves. The extraordinary playfulness of wild cats has been noted with a surge of joy, which they express with cries and sounds of a diverse range [9]. Bush cats have unique vocal data. They use a huge number of different sounds and their combinations, which together with a luxurious tonal range creates the impression of the existence of some kind of cat language. Servals quickly and clearly decode these notifications among themselves, without bringing the situation to a conflict [10]. Playing, serval kittens gain important experience. Specialists consider the active mischief of bush cat kittens an important aspect of the formation of their personality and a manifestation of a healthy psyche. They are well at this moment, therefore they are healthy, calm, not intimidated, do not suffer, perceive the location and others as ontogenetically native environment. With age, periods of playfulness decrease in frequency and duration and are replaced by periods of careful observation, hunting, and respectful movement around the territory, if the animal does not feel danger. The body language of servals is a way to understand them. One can watch the playful play of kittens with interest, but the magic of the plasticity of the movements of a young and adult wild cat is a delight. This is not just a stream of plastic movements, but a magical penetration, saturated with mystery and caution on the edge of proprioceptive sensations. Servals are owners of extraordinary intuition and an extremely acute sense of caution. They are very difficult to deceive. Distrust on the part of a serval is a constant block in the development of further relationships. Intuitively sensing the intentions of a person as a representative of the animal world, a serval can, if necessary, pretend to be a submissive creature until an opportunity to escape arises. And it will definitely take advantage of it if it does not trust this person. Observing the life of servals, you realize that these animals can be both dangerous and gentle, distrustful and loyal, and certainly know how to be majestic under any circumstances. Therefore, the desire to tame a serval must be extremely balanced and conscious, because it is almost impossible to force this proud and intelligent animal to do something using brutal methods without harming it and destroying it psychologically.

Servals are playful and clever animals. They can be very loyal, but they remain wayward. It should be remembered that servals, as independent individuals, do not rely on anyone and are used to making decisions according to the situation instantly and without hesitation, guided only by their own experience and intuition. This feature can become a significant obstacle to their domestication, but it can also help in adapting these animals to home conditions and the appearance of an owner. Wild cats in everyday life require a special approach to upbringing: it is better to encourage them using game techniques and balanced calm communication, so as not to offend, and the punishment may be ignoring. The use of physical punishment is unacceptable, since the formed hidden resentment at the moment of a surge of emotions can manifest itself in aggression even towards the owner-friend. Speaking about servals, knowing their psychological needs and behavioral characteristics, it is difficult to imagine the possibility of the appearance of an owner in their life. Most likely, it should be a friend, but a higher-ranking one, who takes responsibility for the animal's life, hospitably welcomes it to his territory, provides conditions as close as possible to those familiar to servals, and patiently and correctly integrates it into the environment physically and psychologically. These roles in the relationship between the serval and the owner-friend should be well understood not only by the person, but also by the serval. And it is the person who should convey this to the animal that he snatched from the natural environment and wanted to have at home as a pet.

It is extremely important to create and maintain a clear routine when raising bush cats in unnatural conditions. A well-established routine that takes into account the natural circadian rhythms of servals will help the animal adapt to new conditions faster and more gently and get used to being cared for and this requires submission. To reduce the risk of stress from being in unnatural conditions, experts advise creating a cozy, warm and soft corner for the bush cat, similar to a large nest, where it can always return if necessary to rest or just be alone. Such an area, of this shape, probably reminding it of its mother, will become a kind of shelter for it, an immersion in a phylogenetically native atmosphere, a personal untouched space and will give it confidence, peace, which will speed up the adaptation process. The next important point of adaptation is an appropriate balanced diet and feeding regimen.

Zoopsychologists believe that despite their independence, intelligence, and adaptability, some of the character traits of bush cats can interfere with the adaptation process, causing misunderstanding and aggression not on the part of the animals themselves, but on the part of humans, which in turn generates an aggressive attitude of the serval towards the potential owner, accumulating negative emotional experiences. The natural freedom and independence of wild cats, who had at their disposal large areas covered with bushes and tall grass, which hid danger at every step and required them to be in constant tone with heightened senses, is encoded in their chromosome set and is transmitted through generations. Therefore, regardless of the age of the serval at which it was removed from the wild and found itself in human living conditions, it will still continue to need this space and emotional outbursts. These unrealized emotional needs of the hunter and victim of wildlife, which are not fulfilled at home, can be transformed from boredom into destructive outbursts of mischief and an uncontrollable desire for rapid movement. At these moments, animals can jump quickly and high, run in circles, knock down objects, frightening themselves and, as a result, becoming emotionally even more agitated. When trying to stop them abruptly and brutally, they are able to bite and injure a person with their claws. Experts do not recommend tying up servals and cutting off their claws, as this will deprive them of self-confidence and instill anger in them. Instead, the best way to quell activity without aggression is to show patience and affection. Servals, having become mischievous, love to be hugged and held. They, full of guilt, are ready to plunge into warmth and affection, like in a mother's embrace. Animal psychologists highly recommend enduring moments of serval excitement and then embracing this "tornado" in order to merge with it psychologically and balance it.

Conclusions

Serval, or wild cat, is a peaceful, playful creature, friendly, cautious, moderately trusting when it comes to young animals raised in a family from an early age; very trusting when it comes to kittens raised in a family from birth. In everyday life, it behaves kindly with pets, if they are not larger than its size. Aggression can be manifested in the form of jumping, rapid running away from the source of its fear, hissing, screaming, scratching with claws, bites. Aggressive manifestations in servals can be provoked by fear and illness. Zoopsychologists do not recommend taking servals to a family where there are children under 5 years old due to the incorrect behavior of children who can suddenly jerk, step on the animal or take away food; and because of the possible jealousy of a serval, who considers the person who takes care of him to be only "his".

To facilitate the process of raising wild cat kittens and speed up their socialization, experts recommend that in order to form an image of the owner, they be given food from their hands, but not allowed to play with their hands, so as not to associate the owner's hands with hunting prey. To turn off the natural instinct associated with a sense of danger and fear, it is better to play with kittens on the floor, so that the owner's eyes are at the same level as the animal's. To prevent damage to household items, it is recommended to treat surfaces with a safe spray with the smell of apples and provide the kitten with its own toys, periodically changing them.

In no case should you raise your voice at the animal, even in the case of intentional harm, in order to avoid the formation of a feeling of possible danger from the owner and not to destroy the feeling of trust. The best punishment for a serval would be to ignore it for some time, the correct duration of which should be felt by a person based on the signs of the animal's behavior. If you cannot calm the kitten's activity, you can use a spray bottle, sprinkling water on its muzzle and saying the rules out loud calmly, quietly and confidently. Given the wild origin, vulnerability, sensitivity, activity and extreme curiosity of servals, you should accustom the animal to a collar so that it does not run away and thereby protect it from aggressive society and injury in unfamiliar conditions.

This is just a small list of serval features and recommendations that can help understand their behavioral motivation in a human-modified environment. In fact, the character of servals is not something permanent and unchanging; it is influenced by temperament, like a person. Just as a person takes a place in the consciousness of a wild cat, testing it for the depth of possible interference and domination, so the serval immerses itself in the "psychological body" of a person, modifying it to suit itself, in order to eventually recognize it as its master. Zoopsychologists believe that the correct socialization of wild cats should be simultaneous with the adaptation of the person himself to a representative of wildlife. Only by immersing yourself in the psychology of a serval can you feel its true state, desires, and needs. It is easier to overcome the aggressive manifestations of wild animals that are possible during their adaptation in society together, going through all the stages of socialization with this animal, considering it not as a toy, but as a friend.

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