Feeding Behaviors of a Dog, Betta Fish, and Leopard Gecko

Shannon Hutchison
• Several breeds are known for rapid consumption of food
  • May be from wolf ancestors
    • Had to compete for food
  • May also be adaptation from scavenging in early domestication
• Taste buds primarily respond to amino acids
  • Can also respond to some “fruity sweet” compounds found in plants
• Odor may play a role in food selection
  • Dogs without ability to smell show less discrimination between different types of food
• Most of the dog’s teeth is used for biting, grasping, and tearing
  • Dogs have four molars
  • Dog mouths can only move up and down
• Rigel
  • Female Shetland sheepdog mix, 5 years old
• Food
  • Iams Proactive Health Minichunks dry dog food – ¾ cup
  • Abound Lamb and Brown Rice we dog food – 2 tbsp
  • 900mg fish oil
• Feeding Time
  • 5:26
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approaching</td>
<td>The act of moving towards the food bowl with the intention to eat</td>
<td>7.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>Prehension, chewing, and swallowing of the food</td>
<td>60.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licking food</td>
<td>Using tongue to touch food without casting any into mouth</td>
<td>9.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licking lips</td>
<td>Wiping tongue across lips</td>
<td>21.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>Upright with hind legs folded beneath body and forelegs extended. Not eating food</td>
<td>3.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveying</td>
<td>The act of looking at surroundings while standing at food dish</td>
<td>10.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching door</td>
<td>The act of leaving the food to look at the front door</td>
<td>11.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Video 1
• Primarily carnivores
  • Eat insects in the wild
• Upturned mouth allows betta to suck air and eat prey at surface
  • Tiny, sharp teeth for breaking down food before swallowing
- Male Betta Fish
- Food
  - Aqueon Betta Food
- Feeding Time
  - 2:45
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approaching</td>
<td>The act of moving towards the food bowl with the intention to eat</td>
<td>4.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drifting</td>
<td>Floating, only movement is caused by water</td>
<td>7.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>Prehension, chewing, and swallowing of the food</td>
<td>8.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>Floating next to heater to get warm</td>
<td>46.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunging</td>
<td>A surge in movement in order to catch the food</td>
<td>1.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searching</td>
<td>The act of looking for more food</td>
<td>29.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting</td>
<td>Floating near the bottom of the tank after not initially finding food</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time (%)

- Heating
- Searching
- Waiting
- Approaching
- Lunging
- Eating
- Drifting
• Hunters
  • Prefer eating live insects
• Crickets make up main portion of diet
• Opportunistic feeders
  • Won’t search for prey, but will stalk when prey is in sight
• Godzilla
  • Adult female leopard gecko
• Food
  • Crickets, dusted with calcium
• Feeding Time
  • 2:59
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<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>Prehension, chewing, and swallowing of the food</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunging</td>
<td>A surge in movement in order to catch the food</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
<td>The act of following or watching prey with the intent to catch it</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approaching/Stalking
Lunging
Eating

Time (%)

Dog  Betta  Gecko

Approaching/Stalking
Lunging
Eating

Dog  Betta  Gecko