

Experimental Evidence

- Rats drink little saccharin water at first but increase over time.
- Loud tones (110 db) produce different responses depending on the background noise (60 vs 80 db).
 - Habituation occurred at 60 db
 - Sensitization occurred at 80 db
 - A loud background is arousing, leading to greater reactivity, not less.



Conditions Producing Change

- More intense (stronger) stimuli produce stronger sensitization, less likely to produce habituation.
- Greater sensitization and habituation occur when the stimulus is repeated frequently.
- Changes in the stimulus prevent habituation.
 - Turkeys respond to shape changes.

Conditions (Cont.)

- Sensitization can occur to many kinds of stimuli but habituation occurs only with innate responses.
- Habituation and sensitization are transient (go away after seconds or minutes between stimuli).
 - Except long-term habituation.
- **Dishabituation** – response returns when a sensitizing stimulus occurs.