

# Trainers and Aggression:

## How can we avoid it?

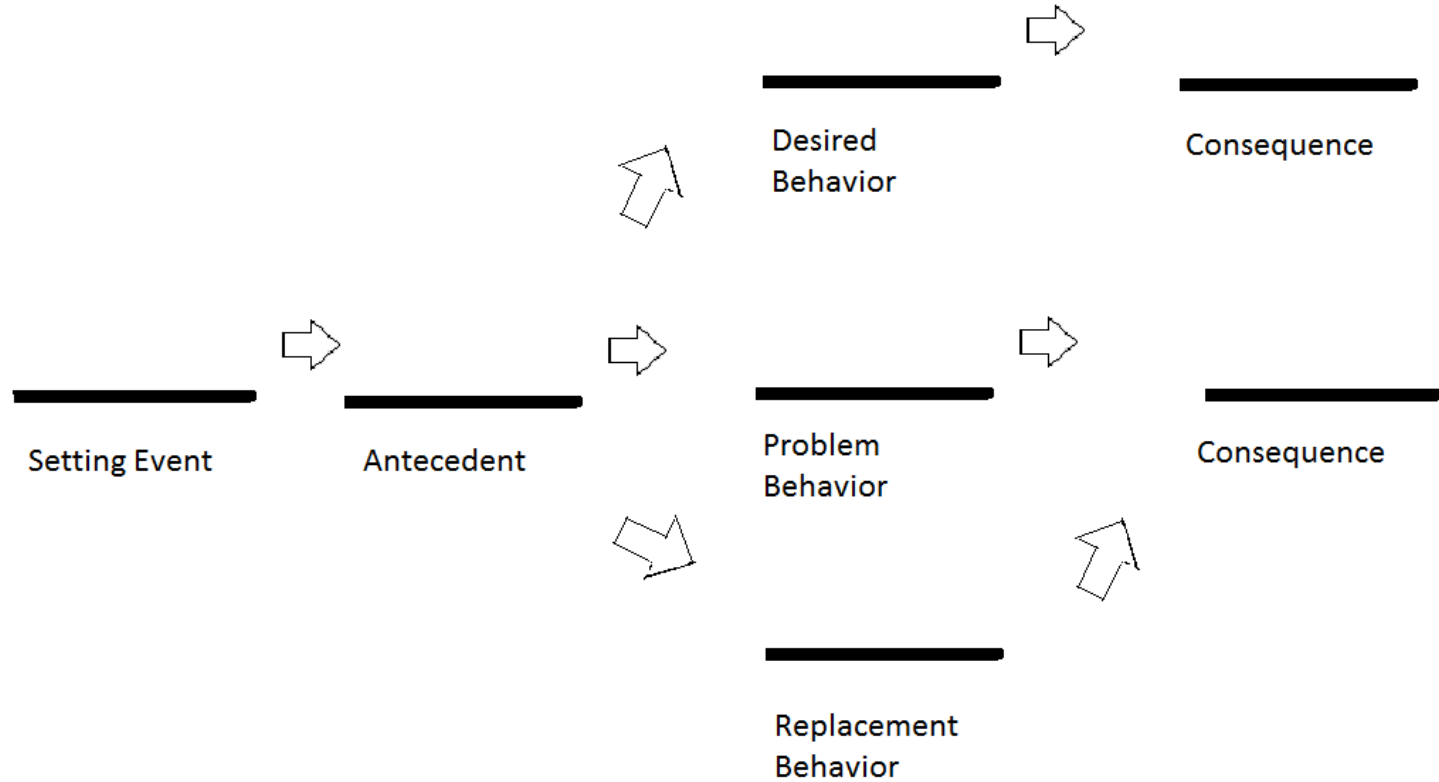
Rebecca Young, MSc

Zoo Atlanta

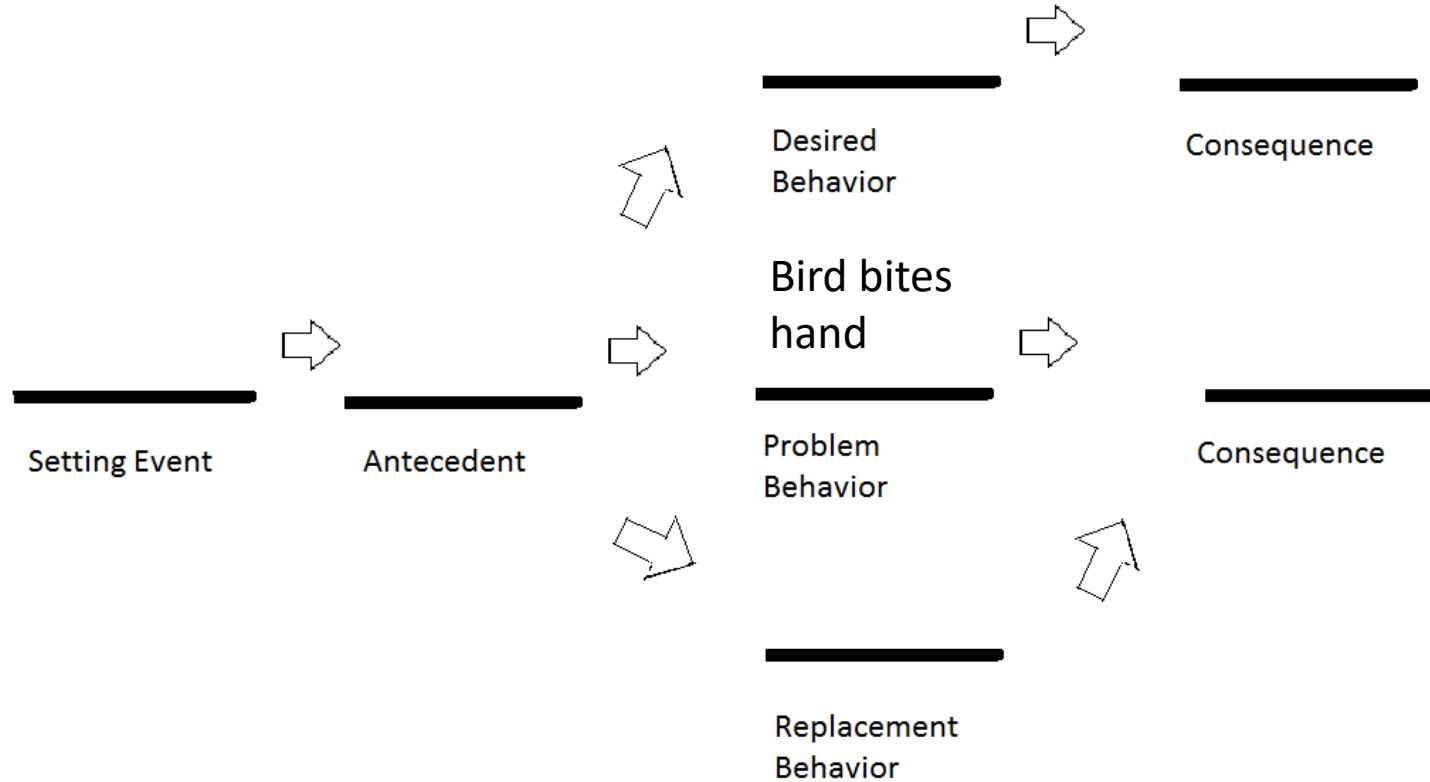
Curator of Ambassador Animals and Behavioral  
Management



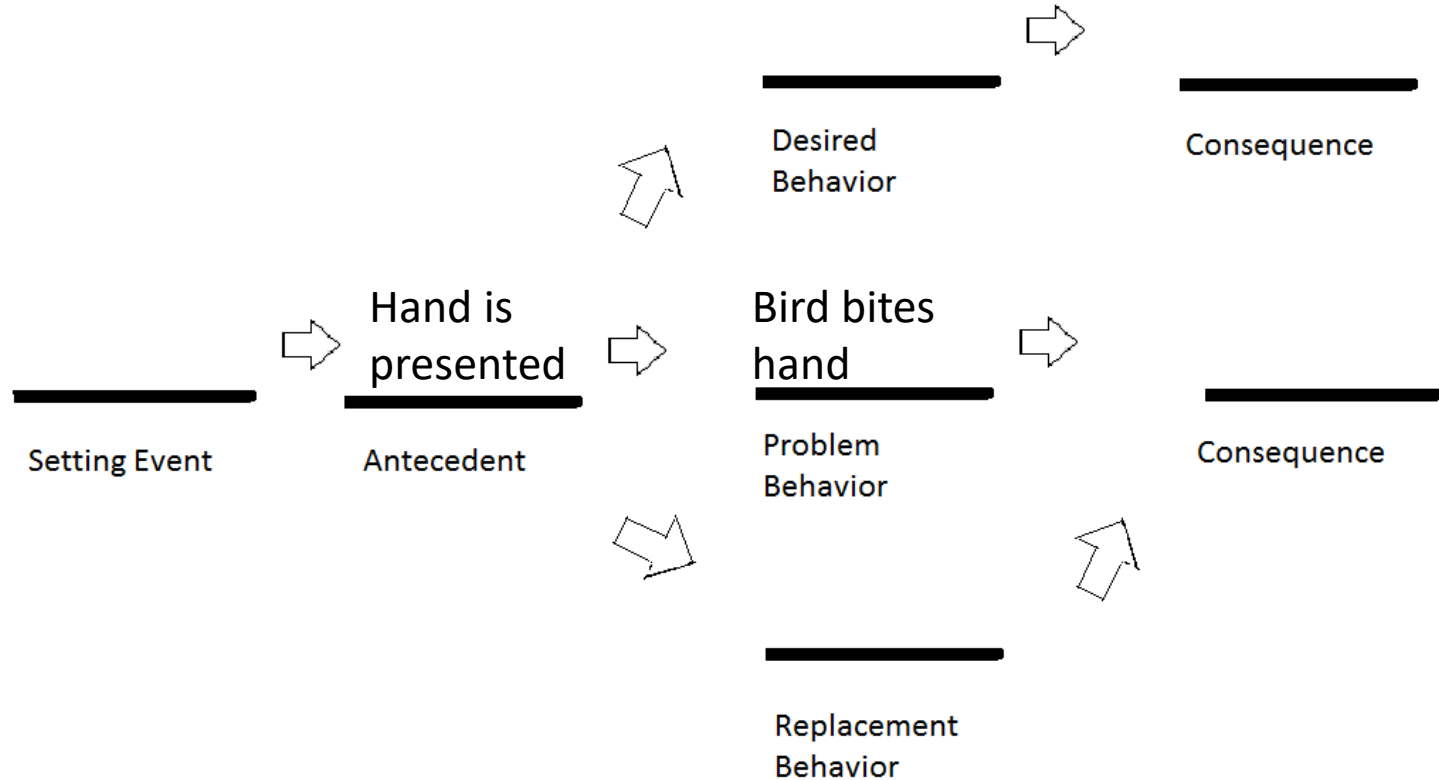
# Functional Analysis



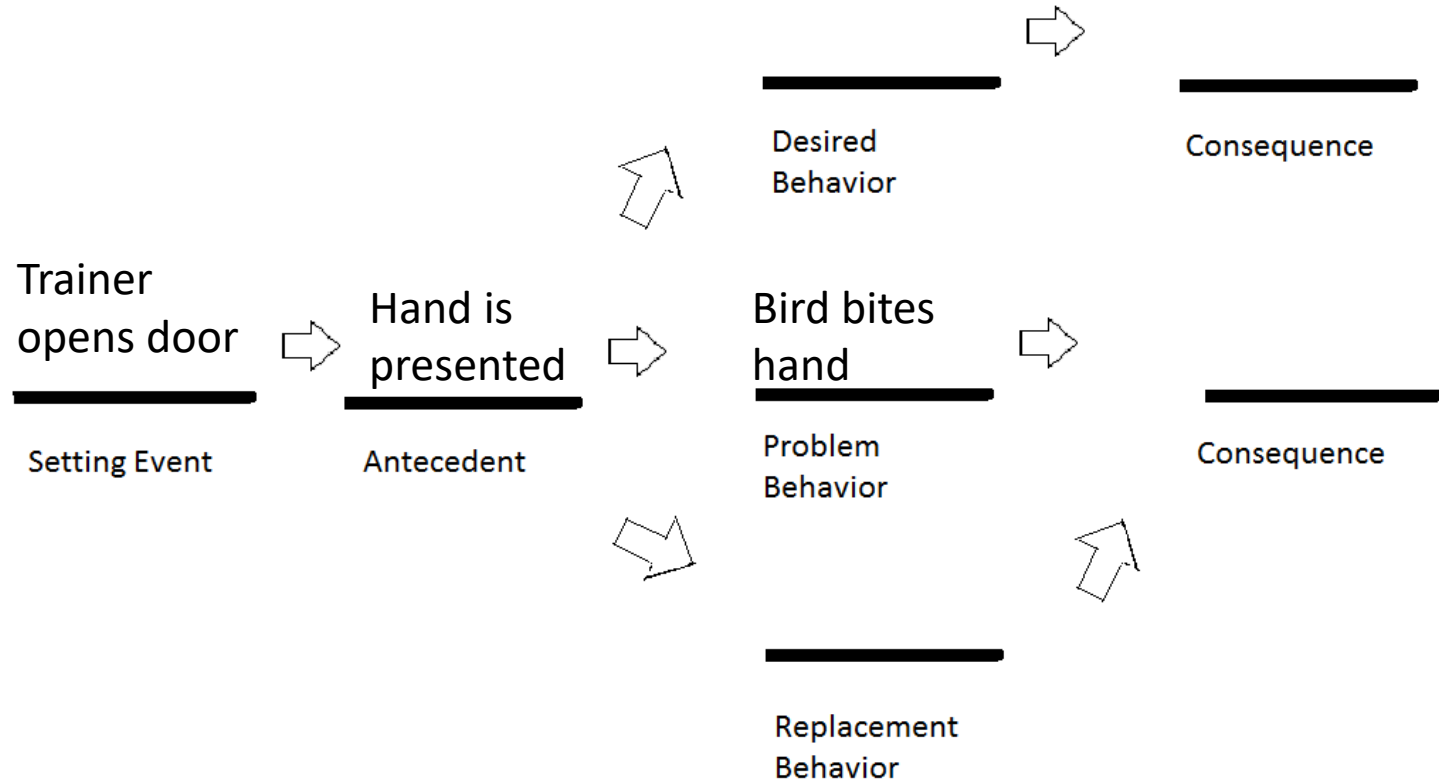
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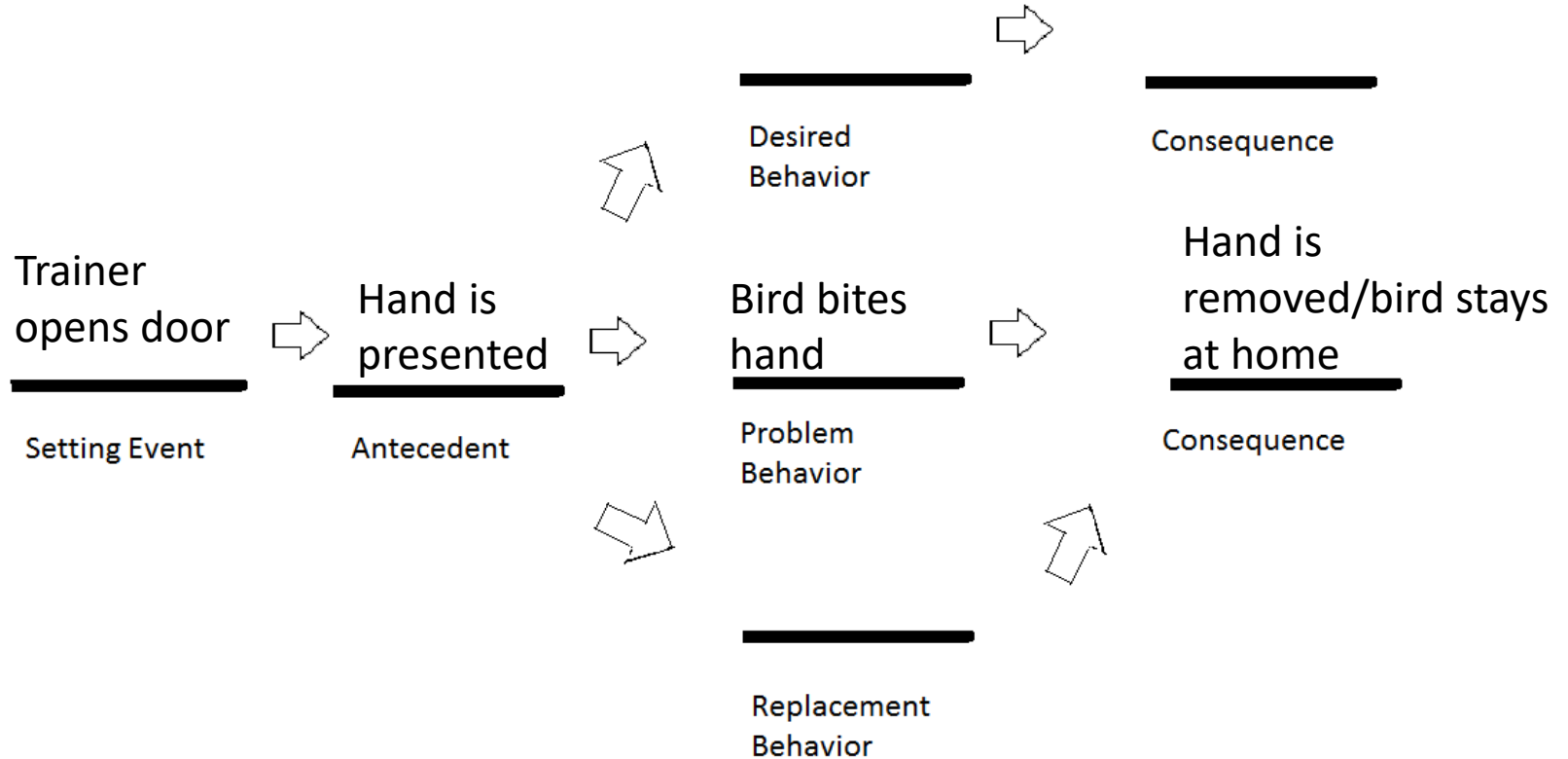
# Functional Analysis



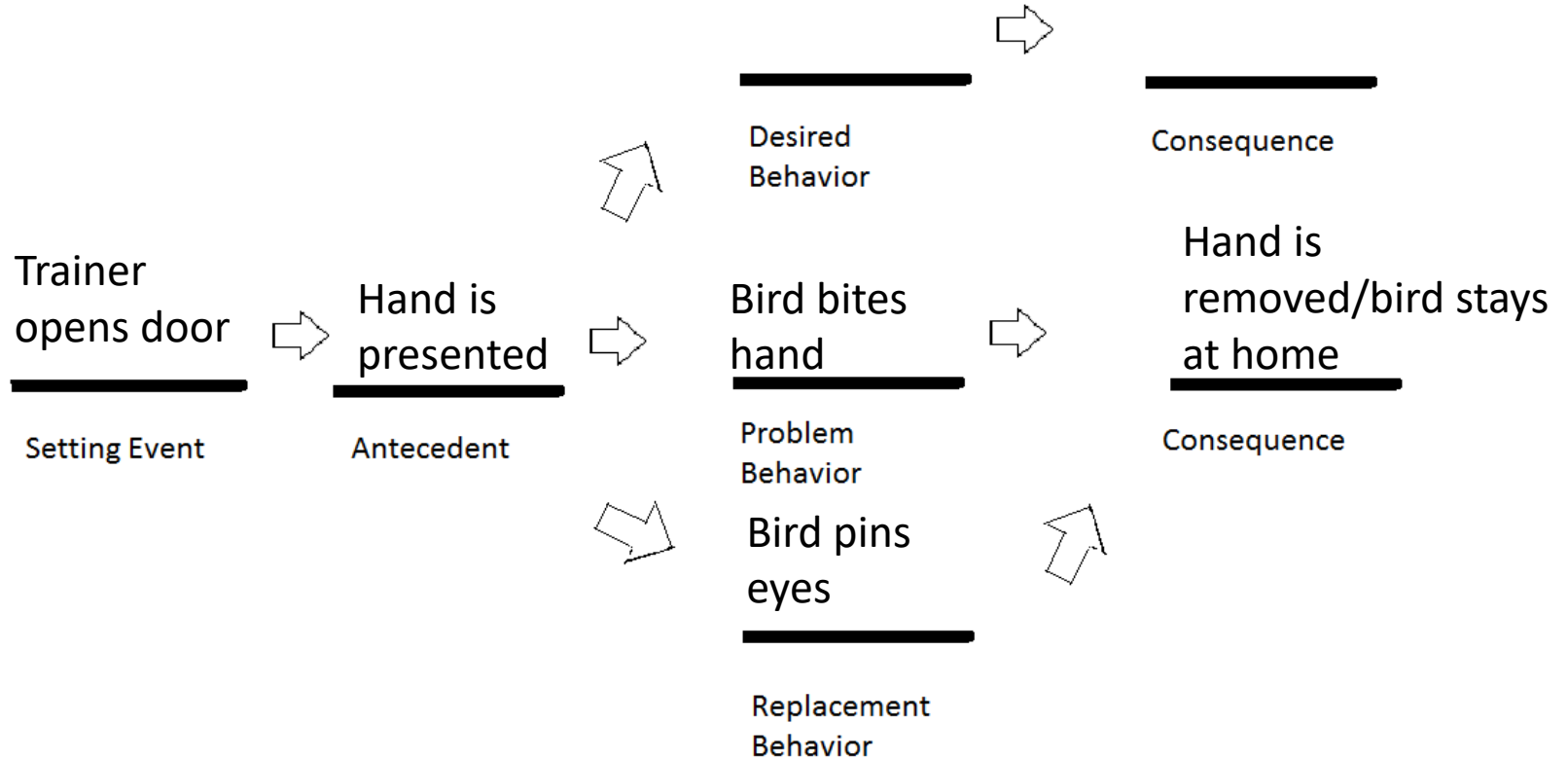
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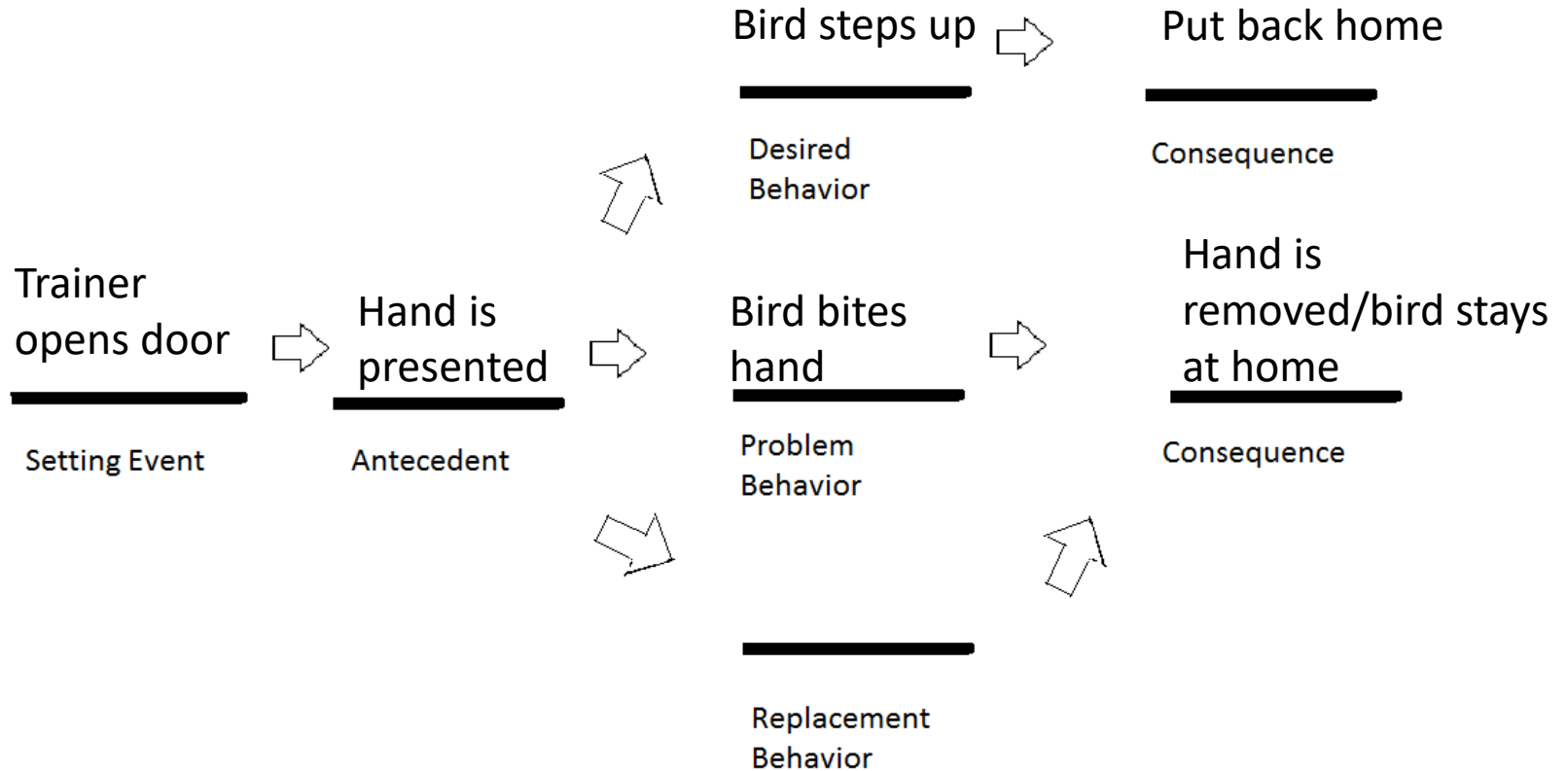
# Functional Analysis



# Functional Analysis



# Functional Analysis





# Abby– Northern Ground Hornbill

## Problem

What: Escalating from foot pound to pants grab, to hand biting

Where: Mainly BTS (occasionally on stage, but rare)

When: Primarily during AM weighing

Who: Primarily non-primary trainers

Why: Food is tossed



# Soren- Barn Owl

## Problem

What: Head bouncing/footing and gets “breedy”

Where: At home

When: In winter months

Who: Everyone, some more predictably than others



# Cortez – Blue and Gold Macaw

## Problem

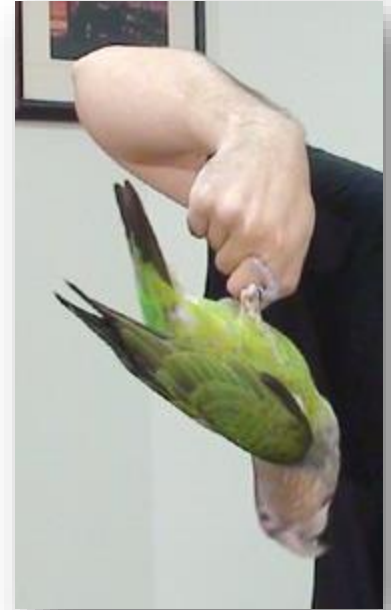
What: Bites the hand he's on.

Where: On stage, sometimes BTS.

When: Immediately after completing the "Elvis"

Who: Everyone that asked for, and got, the behavior

Why: ??? We never figured this one out.



# Aussie – Laughing Kookaburra

## Problem

What: Lunging at trainer's faces and biting them in the ear, eye brown ridge, lips, or bridge of nose.

Where: Inside her mew, from perches and the hand

When: During AM weighing, after telemetry ankle buwet is secured, during kennel training sessions. Gets worse in spring and fall.

Who: Almost exclusively non-primary trainers

