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Title: Environmental enrichment choices of shelter cats

Authors: J.J. Ellis, H. Stryhn, J. Spears, M.S. Cockram

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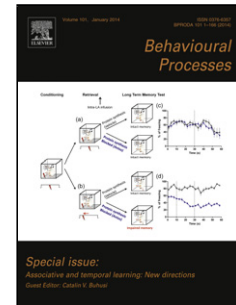
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Title:

Environmental enrichment choices of shelter cats

Author names and affiliations:

J. J. Ellis^{1,2}, H. Stryhn³, J. Spears⁴ and M. S. Cockram¹

¹Department of Health Management, Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

²Present address: Behavior Department, Nestlé Purina, Saint Joseph, MO, USA

³Department of Health Management, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

⁴Department of Biomedical Sciences, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Corresponding Author: Dr Jacklyn Jaye Ellis; Jacklyn.ellis@rd.nestle.com

Highlights:

- Cats were more active during the day than during the night
- Chamber visit duration distinguished between enrichment options more than frequency
- Cats spent more time in the hiding compartment than in the other compartments
- Including a hiding box in enclosure design may be important to cats

Abstract

Choices made by cats between different types of environmental enrichment may help shelters to prioritize how to most effectively enrich cat housing, especially when limited by space or funds. This study investigates the environmental enrichment use of cats in a choice test. Twenty-six shelter cats were kept singularly in choice chambers for 10 days. Each chamber had a central area and four centrally-linked compartments containing different types of environmental enrichment: 1) an empty control, 2) a prey-simulating toy, 3) a perching opportunity, and 4) a hiding opportunity. Cat movement between

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