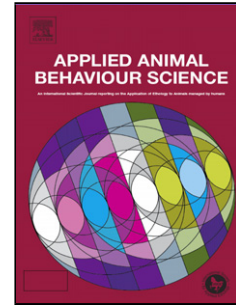


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## **Captive-reared juvenile box turtles innately prefer naturalistic habitat: implications for translocation**

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### **Highlights:**

- We reared hatchling box turtles in either a naturalistic or simplistic enclosure.
- We gave turtles a choice representing both rearing habitats when eight months old.
- Most (84%) selected the naturalistic habitat, suggesting this preference is innate.
- Personality was evident from individual consistency in habitat selection latency.
- Evaluations of such intrinsic effects could inform wildlife translocation outcomes.

### **Author agreement**

This manuscript has not been published, accepted, or is not under consideration for publication in any other journal or book. It has been read by all authors and submission has been agreed upon. All persons entitled to authorship have been included. Additionally, all relevant permits and animal use permissions were in place to ensure humane treatment of all animals involved.

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