**Discrimination Task Training Protocol**

**Day -3: Day of surgery or a few days before**

* Add running wheel to cage

**Day -2: 1st Day of food restriction**

* Take away food in the morning
* Weigh mice

**Day -1: 2nd Day food restriction**

* Give 1mL soymilk per mouse at the end of the day
* Ignore LARC health checks

**Day 0: 3rd Day food restriction**

* Feed 10% of total weight

**4+ Days of Dark Running**

* Handle each mouse ~5 minutes before head fixing
  + You want them to become exploratory and comfortable in your hands
* Dark run until mouse runs >100,000 steps on Arduino or ~25,000 steps on NIMAX

**Discrimination Task**

* **First Days** 
  + Dark run while task is running in the background so that mice get a distance reward for running
  + Switch over to the VR after ~10 trials
* **Free Reward Corridors – 2 days?**
  + No Reward Zone
  + Choice not forced
  + 50/50% presentation of each stim
  + Want 100-200+ trials
  + Want anticipatory licking 🡪 licking while in the corridor even if the first choice is incorrect
    - Move on to next step
* **Forced Choice Corridors** 
  + First Day – Free Reward given at end of corridor when mouse makes an incorrect first choice?
  + Day 2+ -- Eliminate free reward
  + Want multiple days of high rates of correct first choice
  + If mouse is biased towards one of the stimuli, alter the ratios of presentation
* **Alternate Panels**
  + 1000 ms presentation
  + 800 ms lick window
* **Panels Only** 
  + 1000 ms presentation
  + 800 ms lick window
* **Unilateral Panels** 
  + 1000 ms presentation & 800 ms lick window
  + 800 ms presentation
  + 500 ms presentation