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| **Recommendations:**  By carrying out this experiment we have had successes and struggles. We hope the following recommendations will assist anyone that is planning on using mice in a future experiment:   * One of the first obstacles we came across was that sometimes, pet storeowners will tell you a lie or are just careless!!! Requesting *all* females, we managed to get out of the store with eight females and two males. Realizing this after we got home (because of the�uh�..actions of the males), we had to go back to the store and demand a change. Now, if we had known in the beginning what to look for, we could have checked out the mice ourselves. Also, don�t believe the pet stores when they tell you they cannot tell what gender a mouse is. We could tell by the time we went back to get more mice. Kinda gross we know, but a little research could save you if you find a few pictures about what mice genitalia looks like. Males are very obvious once you know what exactly to look for! * This brings us to another problem that could be encountered: pregnancy! Though having all females eliminates the risk of them reproducing while they are in your custody, you could buy them pregnant. The gestation period of a mouse is roughly one month. By waiting two weeks after you buy the mice before you conduct any experiments, you can make sure you are not running a pregnant mouse through the maze. This way you won�t have to worry about pregnancy as a variable. Though one of our mice was pregnant, we noticed it before starting the maze. Sadly (and fortunately), she was one of the mice that died in the great viral massacre, so having a mother mouse did not affect our experiment. * We would also recommend that you do not purchase your mice until you are ready to carry out the maze trials. We waited awhile and some of our mice got sick and died. Though sickness could occur at any time, the deaths of our mice wouldn�t have delayed our experiment if we had collected our data right after we bought the mice. * We had planned to do another type of experiment as well. In addition to playing the music while the mice were running through the maze, we were going to do an experiment, using another maze formation, where we would play violent media sound bites to the variable group for a few hours during the day and then run them through the maze to see how that affected them. Unfortunately, due the to fact that four of our specimens died and we had to have the control and variable groups living together in the same cages, we could not carry this experiment out. * Also, we noticed that the mice are very different from each other. We thought it was important to compare each individual mouse�s progress in getting through the maze to itself. While one mouse may steadily decrease their times in the maze, another may have random times. The point of this experiment is to see *how* the sound clips affected the mice�s time pattern in the maze, if it affected it at all. We also recommend that you use the ANOVA statistical test, as it seemed to work well for us. * We also recommend that you handle the mice (evenly of course) to familiarize them to you so that they will let you pick them up to put them in and out of the maze. Sometimes we had trouble getting the mice to let us take them directly out of the maze. One mouse in particular would always dart away when we tried to take her out. We think if we had petted them more, we would not have had that problem. * And finally, if you are going to use mice in your experiment, whether it is for testing the effects of violent sound or something else, we HIGHLY recommend knowing where the mice are going to go after the experiment has been completed. At first, we thought we could just give them back to the pet store (a future that does not ensure that they will not become feeder mice) or give them to someone who owns a pet snake. What we did not realize is how attached we would become to the little guys. So if you would like a pet mouse�����.   [(BACK)](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |