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| **How the Experiment Got Started:**  After reading about ADD and its treatments, I began to doubt that ADD really existed. To me it seems like merely an excuse parents use for their unruly kids. To change one's behavior, in my opinion, is equivalent to changing one's personality. Some people don't like school; some people don't like to do homework. That doesn't necessarily mean anything is wrong with them, and drugs may not be the answer to these behavior patterns.  But I wasn't about to totally disregard all the accounts of doctors who prescribe medications for their ADD patients or the parents and kids who say that the medication has worked. I had to find out for myself, and not having ADD (or at least I don't believe I have ADD), I needed to test the medicine on someone else: Mice.  **Why Mice?**  Among all the animals used by scientists, the majority of them are mice. They are remarkably similar to humans on the genetic level as well as extremely convenient. Their short life span and rapid reproductive rates make it easy to follow diseases as they grow in the mouse's body. Using mice for tests is not anything new and, in fact, many new drugs are required by an array of federal regulations to be tested on mice before they can go on the market.  **Learning How to Care for my Subjects:**  Although I have had many pets in my life, I have never had mice. This was not much of a problem, but it did require me to research how to properly care for them. I decided early on that it would be difficult to have all white mice because I wanted them to live together. If they were all white it would be difficult to tell them apart. So Fancy Mice seemed to be the right choice to buy because they come in many different colors and coat patterns.  Fancy Mice are categorized as follows:  Order: Rodentia  Family: Muridae  Sub Family: Murinae  Genus: Mus  Specie: musculus  Their average statistics are as follows:  Size: 9-10 cm, excluding tail  Weight: 0.5-1.5 grams (birth), 20-40 grams (adult)  Body temperature: 97-100F  Heart rate: 325-780 beats per minute  Respiratory rate: 94-163 per minute  Adult Food consumption: 10-15 grams per day  Adult water consumption: 15 ml per day  Chromosomes: 40  Gestation period: 21 days  Captive Lifespan: 1.5 to 2 years although 4 years has been known  Here's a picture of the two cages. The one on the left is the tester cage and one the left is the control group.  As you can see from my journal, I did not start off with all males. I originally had an even mix of males and females. My reason for doing this was to slowly introduce the different groups of mice to each other. When I would buy more mice, I would buy several at one time. The ones that came together already were familiar with each other and did not fight. I had little problems introducing the groups to each other, but I did monitor them closely so that I could remove any problematic mice before it was too late. I gradually separated the mice by gender until all the males were together and all the females were together. By the time I did this the males all got along (this was a concern of mine because I had read from multiple resources that males will fight with each other if not properly introduced).  While I had female mice, Spot had seven babies. Four of them were males and so I kept them for the experiment. After the babies were weaned I took all the girls back to the pet store (more details are provided in my journal). I only wanted males for my experiment because the majority of ADD cases are males.  My mice have turned out to be very interesting animals. They are very social with each other and with myself. They will sleep together, groom each other, and make chattering noises at each other. They do appear to have social ranks. They demonstrate this by mounting each other. The more dominant mouse will smell the other's privates and often groom the lower ranked mice as they grovel in front of them. The female mice become very interested with the pregnant mouse's privates when she is in her last week of pregnancy. It's almost as if the other females are anxious for the new arrivals.  Spot had her babies shortly after Raccoon had lost hers. However, Raccoon seemed to think the new babies were hers. She would help Spot groom her babies and add bedding to their nest. At least one of them was with the babies at all times. When the babies got a little bigger and started to adventure out of the nest Raccoon would help Spot carry them back to the nest where they belonged. Ironically, the babies even looked more like Raccoon than Spot, their real mother.  As I mentioned before, the mice chatter at one another and at me as well. They tend to do this the most when I am holding them or new food has been put in their bowls. They use their tails as if it were a fifth hand. They will wrap it around my hand (for example) when they are walking on it to keep their balance. They are actually a lot like cats in their behaviors. They are primarily nocturnal (although they can be found running around during the day as well), they are very clean (despite their bad smell), they use their tails for balance, and they all have their own unique personalities. It amazes me that such small mammals can have such huge personalities.  Now that I had done research on ADD, medication to treat ADD, and knew how to care for my mice and what to expect from them, I was ready to move on with my experiment.  **And so, the Real Question:**  How will Dexedrine, a drug commonly used on children with ADD, effect the activity levels and growth rates of male mice compared to those who do not receive any medication? And is it a positive or negative effect?    ([Intro1](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html))([Intro2](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html))([Intro3](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html))([Intro4](http://docs.google.com/intro4.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)]  [[2002 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2002/index.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)] |