|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

I knew that a major risk in this experiment was to be anthropomorphic and make assumptions about my mice's behavior based on human emotions and responses. For this reason, I tried to focus my experiment on things that I could physically test, like the time it takes to solve a maze or change in weight. Of course I watched my mice and noted observations, however, I tried not to focus on these. For purposes of this research project, however, I will note the observations that I made.

As one might assume, I noticed that (in both phases) the mice I didn't pet were extraordinarily uncomfortable around me. Those that I did pet were not necessarily happy to see me but they never ran away with the speed that the unpetted mice did.

I also noticed that in the second generation of mice (phase 2) the petted mice did not seem to feel as comfortable around me. I think that could be due to the fact that I maybe didn't pet them as much as I petted the parent generation. Also, I wondered if maybe they attributed me with the loss of their mother. However, that's being very anthropomorphic so I'll move on.

When I put all the male mice together in the large cage, I suspected that there would be some fighting. My suspicions were confirmed. However, I expected that the mice that I had not petted would be more aggressive. I was wrong: the mice that I had played with and petted were more aggressive than those I had not petted.

When both the females had had their litters, I noticed that the petted mouse had had a litter of 11 while the unpetted mouse had a litter of only 9. Furthermore, I observed that the litter from the unpetted mouse seemed to grow and mature faster than the other litter. I attribute that to the fact that, because there were fewer of them in the womb, there were more nutrients available.

Some excerpts from my journal...

Day 2, Jan 21

"One of the females in the "chosen" cage (the bigger one) has an injured eye and her eyelids seem to be stuck together. She is often ostracized from the rest either by her choice of by the others....Both tanks showed the males fighting a little today. But nothing serious..."

Day 12, Feb 1

"...I noticed that they are like a team, especially the two males in the petted cage. They've discovered that if they both stand on top of the wheel, it will turn and they fall off...I note that they always sleep together, scrunched up next to one another..."