

Open Field Protocol

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Abstract

Citation: Andrea Vogel, Caitlin Clement Open Field Protocol. **protocols.io**

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.j6qcrdw

Published: 09 Nov 2017

Protocol

Setting Up

Step 1.

1. Obtain the experimental animals. The experimental animals must be 8 weeks or older.
2. Turn on the cameras over the two open field boxes. Make sure the whole box is in view. Insert memory cards.
3. Move a cart into the small room to be a workspace. Place a scale and two plastic beakers on the cart. Two dry erase boards and a dry erase markers should also be on the cart.
4. Using the dry erase boards, write the first two experimental animals' numbers and current date on the boards. One animal per board.
5. Record the experimental animal's information on the worksheet. [Behavior Worksheet](#)

Open Field

Step 2.

1. Place a beaker on the scale and zero the scale. Place one of the two experimental animals in the beaker and record their weight on the behavior worksheet. Repeat for the other animal.
2. Make sure to have the correct dry erase board associated with each animal.
3. Bring the beaker with the animal in it and its corresponding dry erase board to on of the open field boxes.
4. Hit record. Move the dry erase board in view of the camera and hold for a couple of seconds. Then place the animal in the center of the box. Repeat for the other animal.
5. Close the door between the two rooms and start a timer for 15 minutes. Record the start time on the behavior worksheet.
6. After 15 minutes, stop recording. Remove the animals and place them back in their cage. Record the stop time.
7. Using 70% ethanol, clean each open field box and beakers. Clean off the dry erase boards.
8. Repeat.