**Having a ball: mink given simple environmental enrichments are calmer and more fertile**

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We investigated whether simple enrichments could enhance mink wellbeing, aiming to improve welfare on fur farms (which house 70-80 million mink p.a.), and in captive breeding centres where endangered mustelids (e.g. black-footed ferrets) often reproductive poorly. Our starting population was 2032 mink, across three local farms. From each of 508 families, one juvenile male-female pair was enriched (E) with two balls and a moveable hanging plastic chain or length of hose, while a second male-female pair was a non-enriched (NE) control. In adulthood, elevated resting shelves (S) were given to sub-set of females with litters. Differential housing lasted 5-10 months (depending on whether mink were kept as breeding stock). Several signs of improved welfare emerged. E mink were calmer (less aggressive in temperament tests; quieter when handled; sometimes less fearful); less likely to chew their fur; E females had lower cortisol (inferred from faecal metabolites) on one farm; and E females weaned more offspring: about 10% more juveniles were produced per E female, due primarily to rates of barrenness being nearly halved, but also to E females giving birth to bigger litters on two farms. Furthermore, S females had less infant mortality: an additive effect such that ES females weaned c. 15% more juveniles than shelf-less NE females. Thus very simple enrichments were highly impactful. This work is changing how mink are housed, we hope will inspire improvements in conservation breeding centres, and raises fundamental questions about how such small changes to captive housing can alter personality and reproductive success.