

Novel Object Recognition
IACUC Standard Procedure
Effective Date: June 2024



Description of Procedure:

Novel object recognition is used to evaluate non-spatial memory in an open field. (see [Locomotor Activity Test Standard Procedure](#)).

Procedure Steps:

1. Prior to administering the test, the animals are habituated individually to an open field by placing the animal in the arena for a determined frequency (approximately 5 minutes).
2. For the training session, two identical small objects are placed in the open field, equally spaced from each other and the walls of the enclosure.
3. The animal is allowed to freely explore the objects for approximately 10-15 minutes, while an observer records the amount of time the animal spends investigating each object. Alternatively, the entire testing session is videotaped from an overhead camera for later post-video analysis.
4. On the retention test (4-24 hours after the training session), a familiar object from the training session is placed into the enclosure along with a novel object that the animal has never seen before. The time spent exploring each object is recorded.