Novel Object Recognition
IACUC Standard Procedure
Effective Date: October 2021

UCSF Office of Research
Institutional Animal
Care and Use Program

Description of Procedure:

Novel object recognition is used to evaluate non-spatial memory in an open field. Note: mice should be habituated individually to an open field for approximately 5 minutes on approximately 3 consecutive days, prior to administering this behavioral test (see Locomotor Standard Procedure).

Procedure Steps:

1. On 3 consecutive days, the animals are habituated individually to an open field for 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 animals spends investigating each object or 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.