

*Audio-Visual Enrichment Preferences Noted in Captive Cynomolgus Monkeys (Macaca fascicularis)*

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One of the more commonly used forms of environmental enrichment for laboratory nonhuman primates (NHP) is the provision of audio and visual stimuli in the form of animated or live action video programming. Studies have demonstrated that NHPs prefer to watch video programming rather than be exposed to nothing at all. However, much is still unknown about this form of enrichment. At our facility we have a robust enrichment program that includes the use of CDs and DVDs. We show a variety of DVDs; however, preference for certain types of programming has not been previously demonstrated. We monitored our colony to determine if any preferences or adverse reactions to various types of programming could be detected. DVDs were chosen from our collection at random. Observations were made on 7 to 8 NHP (*Macaca fascicularis*) per session, depending on availability, using scan sampling at time intervals of 3 min following an initial assessment for baseline behavior and an acclimation to the presence of the observer in the room. A total of 27 DVDs, including 12 live action DVDs, 12 animated DVDs, and 3 DVDs with a mixture of live action and animation were assessed. Preferences did not appear to have a sex or age predilection. There was a clear preference for live action or the mixture of live action/animation over animated DVDs. Of the top 50% of DVDs that held the NHP interest, only 2 were fully animated. Interestingly, the 3 mixed DVDs (which are aimed at toddlers or very young children) all ranked in the top 5. Anecdotally, it was also noted that some animals with a history of exhibiting stereotypic behavior decreased the amount of time spent performing stereotypies when DVDs were playing. As a result of this study we were able to adjust our DVD collection to include only the DVDs that have been shown to be frequently observed and well received by the NHPs.