

THE Enrichment RECORD

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Post-Surgical Environmental Enrichment in Rodents

Surgical procedures and environmental factors produce significant stress in laboratory animals that can affect their biomarkers and thus confound experimental results. It is crucial, therefore, to place even more emphasis on environmental enrichment techniques to reduce stress and improve recovery.

theme in Primadaption and this workshop certainly provides attendees with the tools to venture toward that goal.

The organizer of the workshop, Stefanie Nelsen, led many of the sessions, but also included guest lecturers Don Bradford, president of Primate Products, and Dr. William Singleton of ACTS Training.

The curriculum of Primadaption consisted of classroom lectures, roundtable discussion, and practical training exercises. Some of the topics that were covered included "Operant Conditioning", overviews of "Environmental Enrichment and Behavioral Management", "Eliminating Unwanted Behaviors", "Calculating the Costs of an Effective Enrichment Program" and "Achieving Buy-In".

The highlight for me was the opportunity to apply our newly learned techniques by training naïve monkeys in the afternoons. We trained our monkeys to target, present limbs, to eat cooperatively while paired, and to sit in a restraint chair.

Although I am familiar with many of the topics and concepts that were presented, Primadaption allowed for a deeper exploration and understanding of the concepts of training, enrichment, and animal welfare, and the practical primate training exercises afforded greater opportunity to understand and practice these techniques, as well as a platform for interaction between colleagues to exchange information and discuss various techniques and success stories.

Attendees, selected to represent different facets of the research environment, included veterinarians, research technicians, veterinary technicians and animal care technicians. There was representation from academia as well as pharmaceutical companies. This diversity created a dynamic which enabled lively and valuable discussions and a wealth of information exchange.

Of course, there is a lot to be learned at workshops like Primadaption, but that knowledge doesn't help if we cannot implement it when we return to our daily routines. An interesting and valuable aspect of this workshop were the lessons on "Achieving Buy In", "SWOT Analysis" and "Calculating the Costs of an Enrichment program", as these topics in particular, help attendees to formulate a plan for introduction of new techniques/training/ enrichment at their facilities.

For more information on the Primadaption Workshop, please visit <http://www.primateproducts.com/cms.php?top=10>, or contact Stefanie Haba Nelsen at stefaniehaba@primateproducts.com

Primadaption

"Training and Enrichment that is constantly evolving to meet the realistic needs of nonhuman primates in laboratory settings."

By Genevieve Andrews-Kelly, BS, LAT, Veterinary Associate, Merck & Co., Inc.

In February, I attended the Primadaption Workshop, held at Primate Products' Panther Tracks Learning Center in Immokalee, Florida. The goal of this four day workshop was to "create a realistic enrichment and training program that has room to change and grow, but is capable of being easily instituted at your facility."

As we all know, the world of nonhuman primate research is full of behavioral and enrichment challenges, and Primadaption workshop is an answer to such challenges. The importance of going beyond adequate care and providing optimal care for nonhuman primates was a central