

BEHAVIOR CORE TERMS OF SERVICE

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Purpose

The mission of the Behavior Core is to provide standard behavioral phenotyping of mutant and transgenic rodents for neuroscience research projects. The testing is performed by an experienced behavioral technician in consultation with the Core Director. Animals are housed in the Behavior facility during acclimation and testing. The Core will also provide training in behavioral testing to users.

Initiation of Projects

Please contact the Core Director or the manager to set up an initial consultation to discuss your behavioral phenotyping needs. We will do our best to provide you with animal behavioral phenotyping services, but if scheduling conflicts arise, the order of priority will be as follows: (1) NINDS-funded projects, (2) other funded neuroscience projects and neuroscience projects of Junior investigators (within 5 years of their appointment), and (3) PIs that are seeking to obtain preliminary data for an extramural neuroscience grant application.

Once we have established what testing will be necessary for your rodents, you will transfer your rodents to the BRT vivarium and onto the Behavioral Core's animal use protocol. Users are responsible for all *per diem* charges incurred during testing. Once the transfer is complete, the Core staff will perform the testing of your animals and will provide you a preliminary analysis of the results. At the conclusion of testing, your animals will be transferred back to you. If you require extensive assistance with experimental design, data analysis, interpretation of results, and/or manuscript or grant preparation, mutually agreed on percent effort support should be provided for the Core Manager and Core Director.

Services

The primary service of the Core is to provide a standard battery of behavioral tests to identify phenotype of mutant and transgenic rodents. The following behavioral assessments are currently available:

1. Sensorimotor: visual, auditory, olfactory, grip strength, balance/motor skill
2. Learning and Memory: Morris water maze, Barnes maze, tone fear conditioning, passive avoidance
3. Affect: anxiety, depressive-like behavior, general activity
4. Social Behaviors: social preference

User Responsibilities

To ensure the best possibility to reveal meaningful behavioral differences, we recommend a minimum of 8 age- and sex-matched animals of each genotype, with appropriate WT controls. Because behaviors are sexually dimorphic, we strongly recommend that testing be limited to one sex, or that 8 animals of each sex and genotype be provided for testing. It should be noted that most tests will require 10-12 animals per group to identify statistically significant differences between experimental groups. Please feel free to contact us in advance to discuss your behavioral phenotyping project. Once a project is preliminary accepted by the Core, the User and Core Director must make arrangements (where applicable), regarding (co-) authorships and/or intellectual property issues. Communication regarding scientific questions and outcome of experiments should primarily be between the Core Director and User, and the User needs to communicate these terms of service to lab-members involved in the project. The Core Director may allow logistical or technical issues, such as the timing of individual experiments, to be discussed directly with Core staff. The User agrees to acknowledge the P30 NS045758 grant in any and all publications stemming from data provided to the User by the Core. The User acknowledges that the Core reserves the right to halt or cancel experiments if: A) a minimal likelihood of completion is indicated by the results obtained, B) the User fails to provide requested information on experiments or animals from the Core Director or Core personnel, C) the feasibility of attaining the experimental goals become unrealistic, D) non-adherence by the User to proper personal conduct and/or violation of university rules/procedures.