OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY NEUROSCIENCE CENTER CORE

**BEHAVIOR CORE TERMS OF SERVICE**

Niki Kokiko-Cochran, Core Director

Julie Fitzgerald, Core Manager

**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, priority will be given to projects in the Department of Neuroscience.

Once we have established what testing will be necessary for your rodents, we will transfer your rodents to the BRT vivarium and onto our 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.

**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, aggression, reproduction
5. Sleep and circadian rhythms

**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. 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 Neuroscience Behavior Core 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.

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