

## *At-Home Cat Cognition Test (modified Takagi et al., 2017)*

### Instructions For Owners

You are receiving this document because your cat has been recommended for a cognition test. This test is meant to be administered at home, in a comfortable environment for your cat. Please follow all instructions carefully to ensure that results can be accurately collected and interpreted. Download this document and fill out the correlated blanks. You may also print the document and handwrite the results. Please email this form, once completed, to [pabcr@purdue.edu](mailto:pabcr@purdue.edu).

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To properly administer this cognition test, you will need the following:

- Your cat's favorite food and/or treat
  - Two sets of four bowls (these will be provided to you)
  - Two sets of four papers (these will be provided to you)
  - A stopwatch, clock, or timer
  - A video recording device capable of recording up to 5 minutes of video
  - An electronic device capable of sharing the recorded video (ex. iPhone)
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This test consists of **four** portions: the preparation phase (1), the exposure phase (2), the delay phase (3), and the test phase (4). Please follow all instructions carefully. **Please note that the entirety of the exposure and test phases must be video-recorded** to ensure that all results are collected for our research.

These 4 portions will be preceded by **video-recording instructions** as well as a **questionnaire**. It is essential that you read these sections **prior** to beginning the Preparation Phase of the procedure.

Preparation (1)	Exposure (2)	Delay (3)	Test (4)
~3 min	~1 min	~15 minutes	~1-2 min

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Please refer to the following pages for the video recording instructions and questionnaire.

### **Video Recording Instructions (Action Required)**

This section will briefly explain how the procedure should be recorded. Please follow all instructions carefully, as the recordings will be used for interpretation. Following these instructions, please take a moment to answer the question at the bottom of this section. You may refer back to these instructions as you proceed through the procedure.

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- i. Each of the following phases of the procedure must be video recorded in some capacity:
    - Exposure Phase- Step 2
    - Test Phase- Step 4
  - ii. For the **Preparation Phase**, the following must be video recorded before proceeding to the Exposure Phase:
    - The arrangement of the setup in the Testing Room, complete with all of the required materials
    - A close-up shot showing the contents of each bowl
  - iii. Once you have obtained the contents of the video stated above, you may move on to the **Exposure Phase**. The instructions for this phase are as follows:
    - Begin recording as you bring your cat into the room, before they move from the start point
    - Ensure that the recording contains both your cat and all of the materials set up during the preparation phase for the entirety of the recording
    - Video recording should conclude once your cat has adequately explored all four bowls
  - iv. Once you have obtained the recordings for the Exposure Phase, you may proceed to the Delay Phase and prepare for the **Test Phase**. The instructions for the recording of the Test Phase are the same as that of the Exposure Phase, and are as follows:
    - Begin recording as you bring your cat into the room, before they move from the start point
    - Ensure that the recording contains both your cat and all of the materials set up during the preparation phase for the entirety of the recording
    - Video recording should conclude once your cat has adequately explored all four bowls
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*Recording instructions continue on the next page*

### **Video Recording Instructions Continued (Action Required)**

Throughout the procedure, within the instructions for each phase, there will be a note specifying when to begin and conclude recording. These will be notated with a ☆.

Please note that while you can record this procedure with any video recording device, you must ensure that:

- The quality of the video is at least standard definition. There should be minimal noise, and the interpreter should be able to visualize the contents of each bowl from a standing distance
- The device has the storage capacity to record all of the sections mentioned above
- The videos are able to be converted into a form that can be sent to or shared with the individual that referred you to this procedure. Submission will occur through the following.
  - Online submission

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### **Device Question (Action Required)**

Please specify which device you will be using to record videos of the procedure. Please be as specific as you can (i.e. iPhone 13 Pro Max).

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*This concludes the instructions for video recording. Please proceed to the pre-protocol questionnaire.*

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**Questionnaire (Action Required):** Prior to starting the test procedures, we ask that you take a few minutes to answer the following questions concerning your cat. Please answer these to the best of your ability to allow us to gather the most precise results.

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1. Would you consider your cat to be food-motivated (using a favorite treat/food)?

Yes

No

2. During the Delay Phase of the test procedure, you will be asked to let your cat participate in their regular routine. Please select all that apply. You may come back to this question following the conclusion of the test procedure if necessary.

Playing with toys

Other (Please Specify):

Interacting with humans

Interacting with other cats/pets

3. During the Preparation Phase of the test procedure, you will be asked to place certain objects in each of the bowls. Once you have read that portion of the procedure and have decided on your arrangement, please return to this question.

Please specify below what each bowl contains. Please use as much detail as possible, including, but not limited to:

**\*The bowls with treats should not contain more than 3 pieces of kibble\***

- The type of inanimate object placed (i.e. paper clip)
- The brand of food/treat

**Bowl 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bowl 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

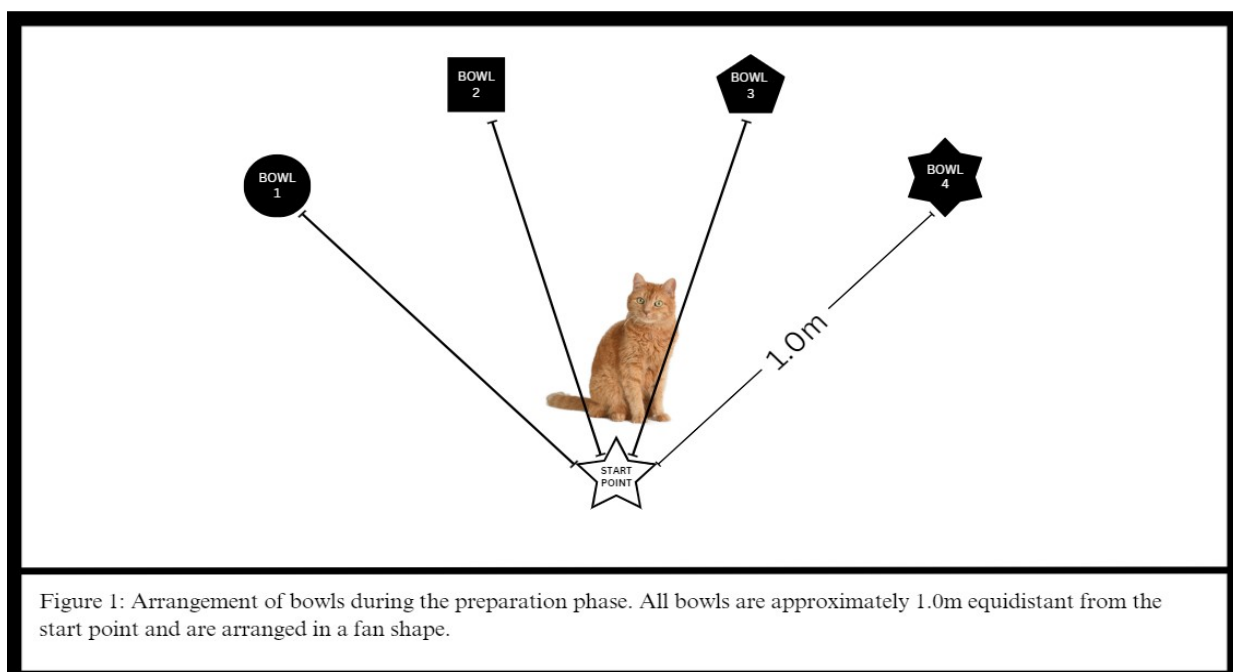
**Bowl 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

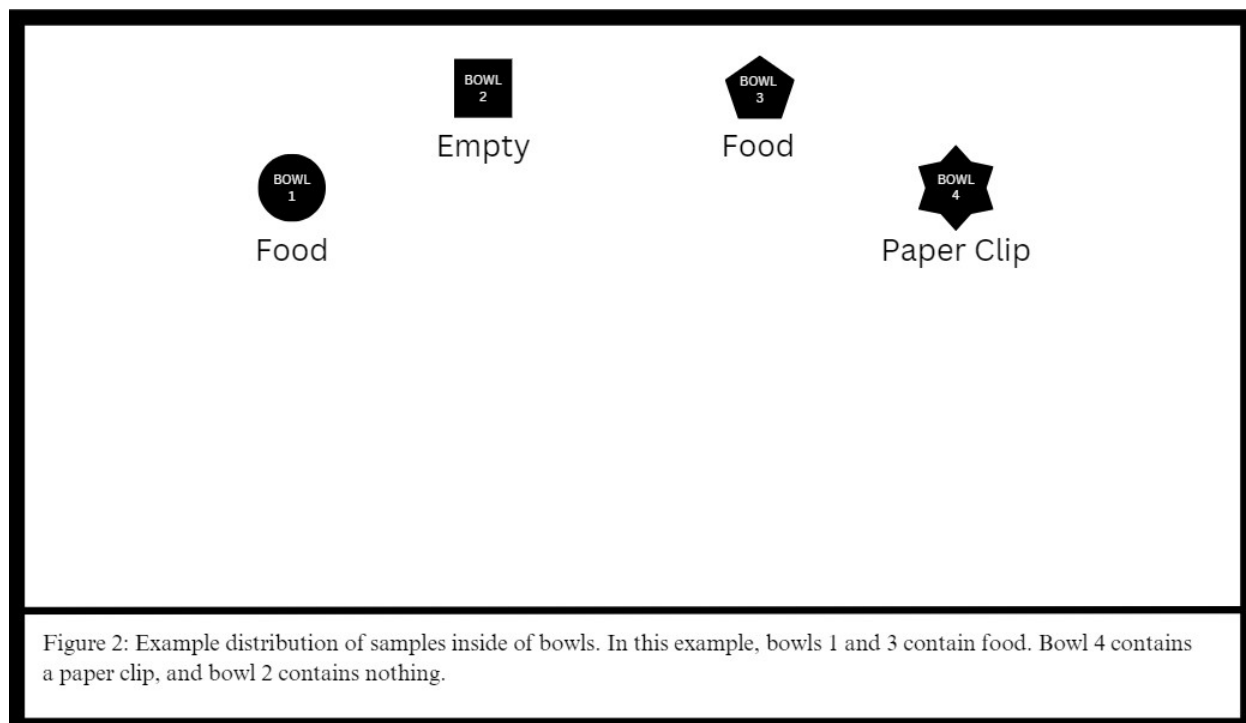
**Bowl 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

*End of questionnaire. Please refer to the following pages for the cognition test procedure.*

### Preparation Phase (1)

1. Isolate two rooms for this exercise. One will serve as a “waiting room” while the other will serve as the “testing room.”
  - a. The **testing room** should be free of distractions, including, but not limited to:
    - i. Food other than that used during the test
    - ii. Other individuals in the household
    - iii. Other pets
    - iv. Access to open windows
    - v. Loud objects, such as televisions or washing machines
  - b. The **waiting room** should be free of food or treats for the duration of the test
2. In the testing room, set a “start point” approximately in the middle of the room. You can choose whether or not to mark this spot. This is where you will place your cat when you begin the exercise.
3. The bowls should be placed approximately one meter from the start point in a fan shape (see attached figure 1).
4. In the bowls that you have placed in the testing room, place your cat’s favorite food or treat in any two non-adjacent bowls. In one of the remaining bowls, place an inanimate object, such as a paper clip or pen (see attached figure 2). ☆ **Begin Recording of required Preparation Phase materials.**





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### **Exposure Phase (2) ~ 1 minute**

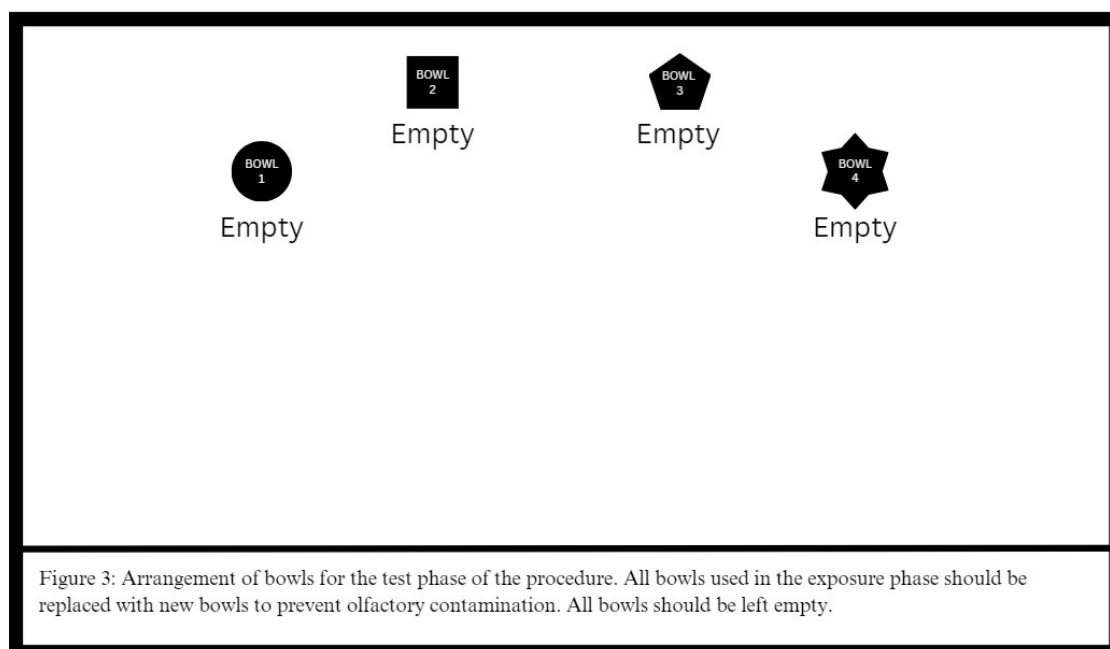
1. With the four bowls set up in the testing room as described in Step 4 of the Preparation Phase, bring your cat into the room and place them at the starting point as shown in figure 1. ☆ **Begin Recording**
  2. From the starting point, let your cat choose a bowl to begin at. Do not interfere with the movement of your cat until they examine one of the bowls. From here, direct your cat in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction, depending on the first bowl they chose.
  3. Your cat can only eat from one of the bowls with food. If an attempt is made to eat at the other bowl containing food, you must continue to direct your cat past the bowl.
  4. Once all four bowls have been examined by your cat, you will return your cat to the waiting room and begin the Delay Phase. ☆ **Stop Recording**
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### **Delay Phase (3) ~15 minutes**

During this time, you will return your cat to the designated waiting room. *Start a timer* for 15 minutes once your cat has entered the waiting room. During this phase, allow your cat to do their “favorite activity,” or simply, allow your cat to do their usual house activities. Meanwhile, you will return to the test room and replace the used set of bowls with the unused set. The bowls should be placed under a new set of papers provided. The locations and shapes of the new set of bowls should correspond with the set used during the Exposure Phase (see attached figure 3). The new set of bowls will remain empty (figure 3).

Upon setting up the new set of bowls in the testing room and after it reaches 15 minutes of the delay phase, return to your cat in the waiting room.



### **Test Phase (4)**

1. Re-enter the Testing Room with your cat, and place them at the starting point. All four bowls should be empty. ☆**Begin Recording**
2. Allow your cat to freely explore each bowl\*. Once all four bowls have been explored, meaning your cat returns to the starting point, or your cat spends greater than 30 seconds off-task, the Test Phase will conclude.

\*:If your cat does not move from the start point after 3 minutes, the test will be concluded.

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3. Upon the conclusion of the Test Phase, stop recording your video. Remove your cat from the Testing Room. ☆**Stop Recording**
  4. Carefully soak and wash any bowls that contained food, and clean up any additional materials. Prepare a video file to be sent to or shared with our team.
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**End of Test**