

## 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)
  - A stopwatch, clock, or timer
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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.

These 4 portions will be preceded by a short (~1 min) **questionnaire**.

*Timeline for test:*

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 questionnaire.*

**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
- Interacting with humans
- Interacting with other cats/pets
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

*End of questionnaire. Please refer to the following pages for the cognition test procedure, starting with the preparation phase (1/4)*

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

### 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).

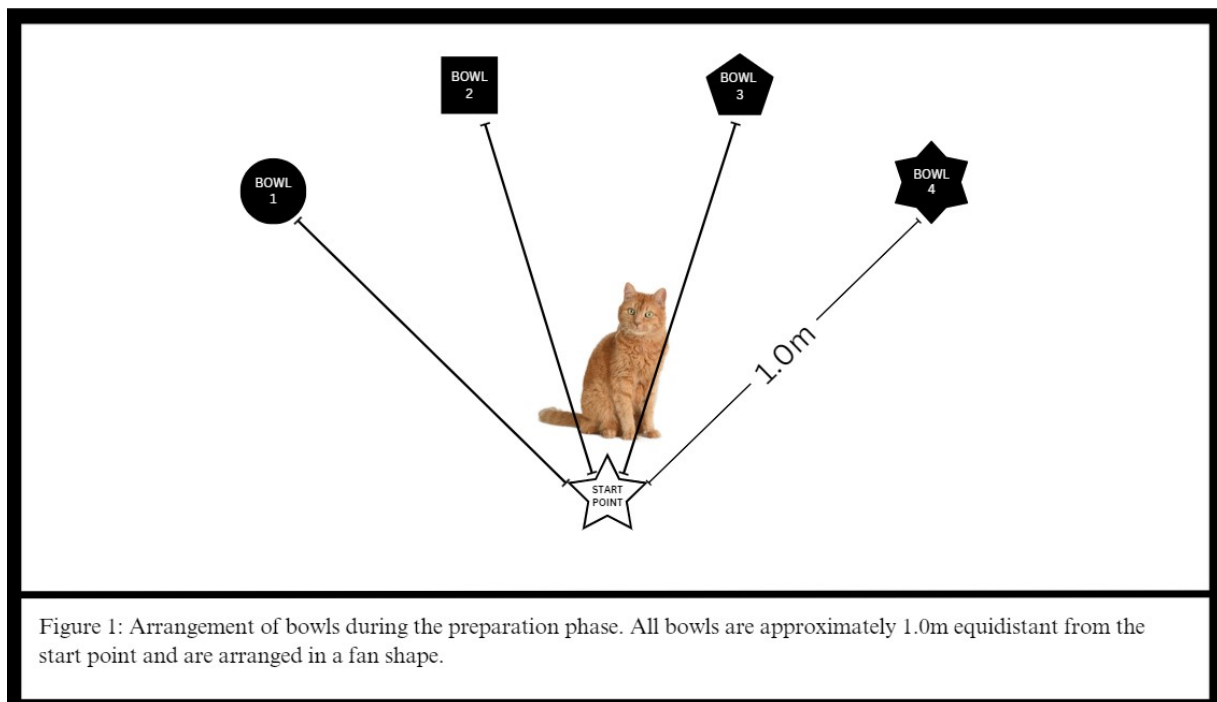
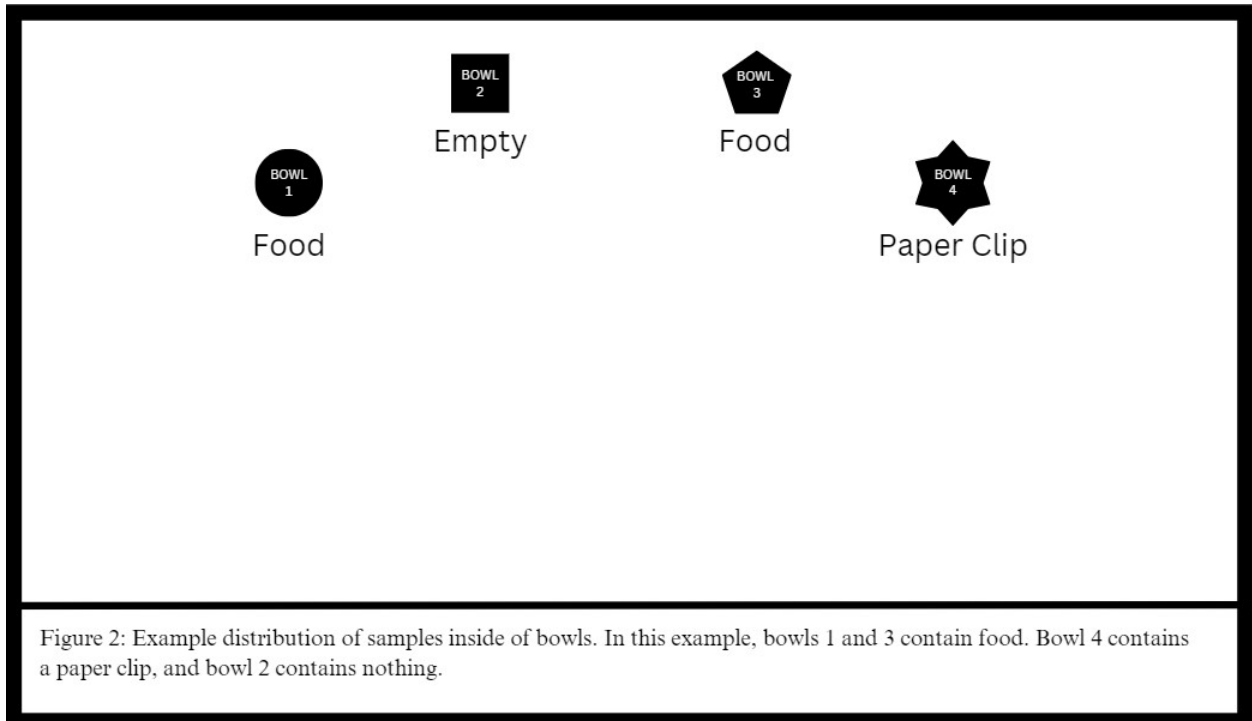


Figure 1: Arrangement of bowls during the preparation phase. All bowls are approximately 1.0m equidistant from the start point and are arranged in a fan shape.

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*Please proceed to the Exposure Phase (2/4)*

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

**\*Please ensure you fill the results proceeding the steps through the duration of the test\***

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.
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.

**IMPORTANT:**

Use the table below the steps to fill in the ***time spent at bowl*** by your cat. In order to do this, simply count using “1 potato, 2 potato...” when your cat engages with the given bowl.

- Engagement can be defined as the following:
  - Sniffing at or near a specific bowl
  - Pawing or licking at a specific bowl
  - Attempting to/successfully eating a treat from a specific bowl

*Please proceed to data collection page for the exposure phase*

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

- The type of inanimate object placed (i.e. paper clip)
- The brand of food/treat
- The quantity of the food/treat placed in each bowl (No more than 3 *pieces of dry food*)

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

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

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

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

Please fill in the time spent at the given bowl, if it is less than 1 second, specify <1 second in the given space, if the count stops in the middle of “Potato”, specify it as a half a second (For example: “1 pota..” would equate to “0.5 sec”)

***Time spent at bowl (seconds):***

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

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

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

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

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

*Please proceed to the Delay Phase (3/4)*

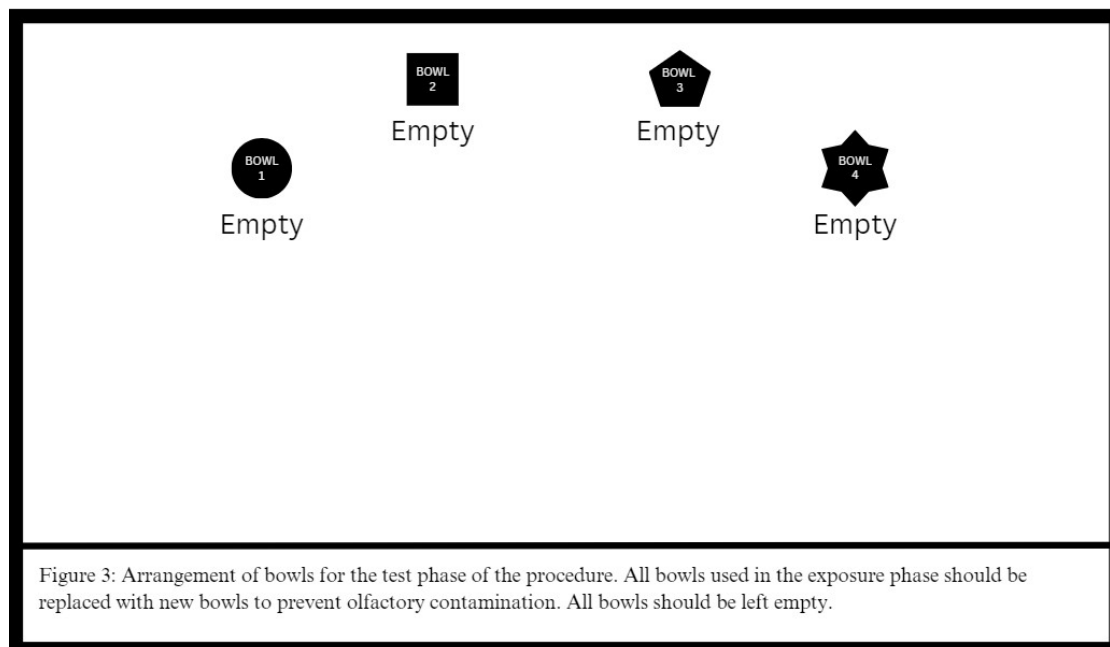
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### **Delay Phase (3) ~15 minutes**

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 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.



*Please proceed to the Test Phase (4/4)*

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

**\*Please ensure you fill the results proceeding the steps through the duration of the test\***

1. Re-enter the Testing Room with your cat, and place them at the starting point. All four bowls should be empty.
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 spends more than 3 minutes without movement from start point, the test will conclude.

3. Upon the conclusion of the Test Phase, stop recording your video. Remove your cat from the Testing Room.
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.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Use the table below the steps to fill in the ***time spent at bowl*** by your cat. In order to do this, simply count using “1 potato, 2 potato...” when your cat engages with the given bowl.

- Engagement can be defined as the following:
  - Sniffing at or near a specific bowl
  - Pawing or licking at a specific bowl

*Please proceed to data collection page for the test phase*



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

Please fill in the time spent at the given bowl, if it is less than 1 second, specify <1 second in the given space, if the count stops in the middle of "Potato", specify it as a half a second (For example: "1 pota.." would equate to "0.5 sec")

***Time spent at bowl (seconds):***

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

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

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

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

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**END OF TEST**