

CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



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Learning Behaviour of Rats

Division: Physical & Mathematical Sciences / None

Category: Junior

Region: Niagara

City: Port Colborne, ON

School: McKay E.S.

Abstract: This experiment explores patterns of behaviour in rats. The focus is on patterns of behaviour that are not part of a trained task -- behaviour that is not conditioned in the rat. Skinner called these behaviours operants. I have called them 'misbehaviours' with respect to training. If a trainer understood what triggered these patterns of behaviour, or misbehaviour, it would help in training.

Biography

I am twelve years old and attend McKay Elementary School in Port Colborne, Ontario in the grade seven Extended French class. My school, extra-curricular and community interests are varied and many. I am the Social Convener of our Student Council. I enjoy public speaking and have gone beyond the school level of competition three times. In grade four I placed first in the school's Science Fair. At school I like to play as many different sports as I can including basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, ball hockey and more. I also play house league basketball and soccer. I love music and play alto-sax and guitar, but mostly guitar. While I won't say that I enjoy it, I do Kumon Math. I am a Junior Handler with CPE and have competed at several dog agility trials with my dog, Roxanne. In the summer I volunteer at Showboat Festival Theatre as a lighting technician. After high school I would like to take engineering but I am not sure where I would like to go to University. While I have travelled as far away as Mexico, France and even Africa, I have never been to Nova Scotia. I look forward to the Atlantic.