

# Other Stressors In Laboratory Animal Care: A Technician's Perspective

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It's Not Just *About* Euthanasia

# Stressors

# Fearful/Anxious Animals





# Abnormal Behavior

- ❖ Feelings of helplessness

# Social Housing - Introductions

- ❖ Feelings of failure, self-blame
- ❖ Injuries possible
- ❖ Time investment
- ❖ Pressure to succeed



# Social Housing - Separations

- ❖ Single housing associated with ↑ abnormal behavior



# Solutions

# Desensitization

- ❖ For fearful/anxious animals





Desensitization

# Train for Incompatible Behavior

- ❖ For abnormal or undesired behaviors
- ❖ PRT/Voluntary cooperation
- ❖ Deeper level of human-animal interaction



# Choice & Control

- ❖ Not just for animals
- ❖ Ask opinions
  - ❖ Treat/treatment vehicle selection
  - ❖ Partner selection
  - ❖ Location input
- ❖ Reduces feelings of helplessness/gives some power over situation



# Enrichment

- ❖ Enjoyed by staff
- ❖ Limitations = frustration
- ❖ Temporary distraction for abnormal behavior
- ❖ Allow staff input (choice and control)
  - ❖ Treat selection
  - ❖ Toy selection
  - ❖ NHP movie selection
- ❖ Benefits the animal





# Refinements - Housing

- ❖ Larger, more enriched enclosures

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## Refinements - Training

- ❖ Voluntary cooperation/PRT
- ❖ Husbandry, clinical, research procedures
- ❖ Reduces use of anesthesia and “force”

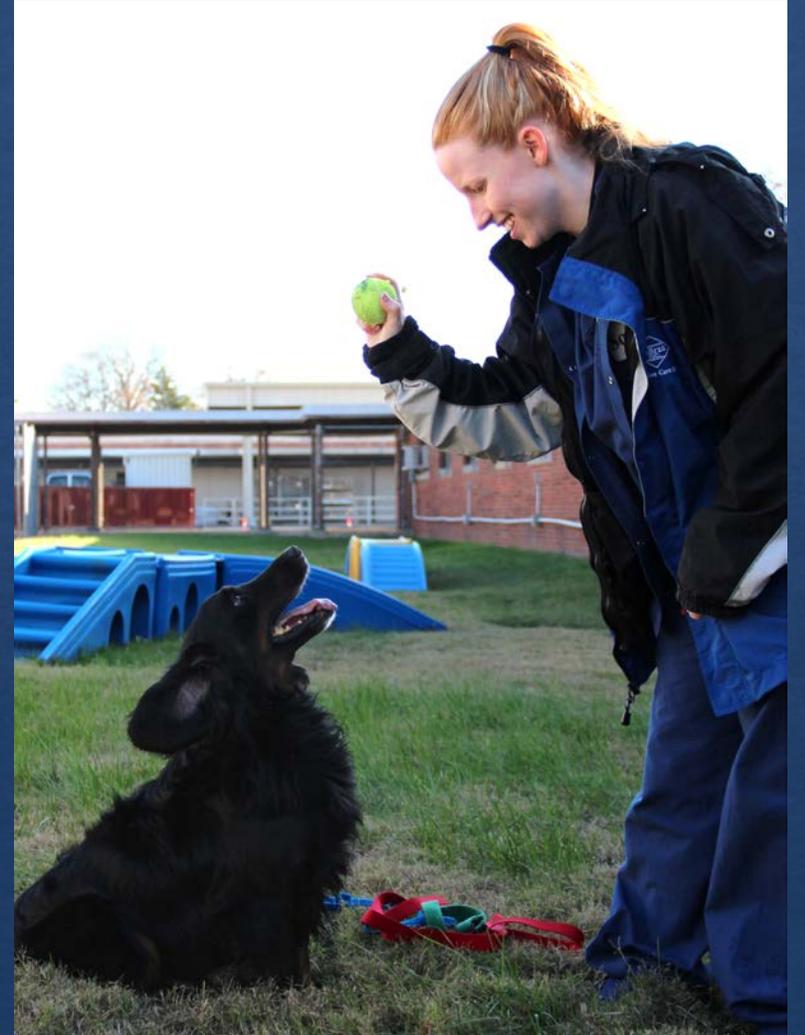
# Adoption/Retirement



❖ Mixed feelings?

# Final Thoughts

- ❖ Less stressed animals = less stressed humans?
- ❖ Want to do what is best for animal—how do we know?
  - ❖ Communication barriers
  - ❖ Limited resources
- ❖ Most positive impact = doing everything we can for the animals in our care



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