

# Using predator models to induce anti-predator behaviors in two captive tamarin (Callitrichidae) species at Parken Zoo



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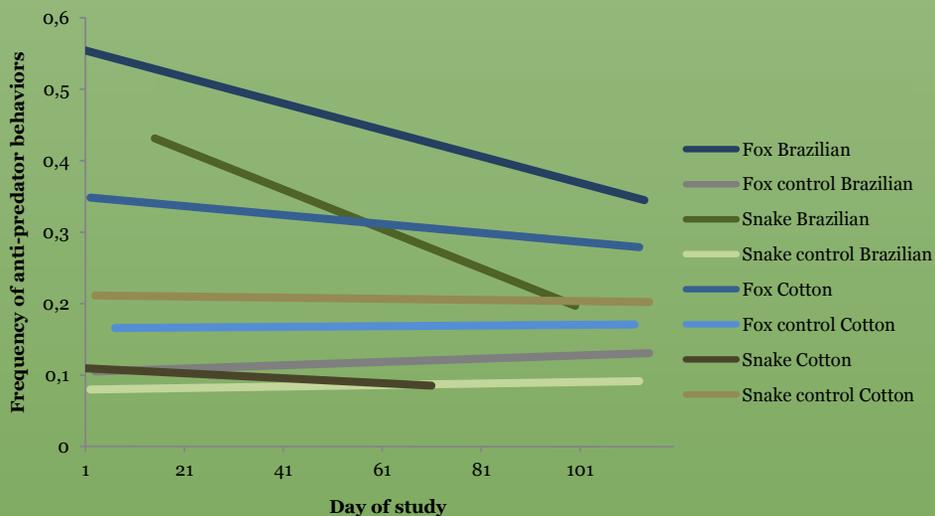
**BACKGROUND:** Captive animals can get impaired anti-predator responses due to lack of predation pressure. A possible way of preventing degradation of vital anti-predator behaviors is to use predator models as environmental enrichments.



**AIM:** To evaluate effectiveness of using predator models to induce anti-predator behaviors in two tamarin species.

**METHODS:** Behavior frequencies shown during presentations of four different stimuli were recorded. The stimuli consisted of two different predator models (stuffed fox and rubber snake) and corresponding controls. They were presented in 17 sessions each, with a simulated movement of the stimuli during sessions.

**RESULTS:** Both tamarin species showed more anti-predator behaviors towards the fox than the control. The Brazilian bare-faced tamarins also showed higher anti-predator responses to the snake than the control, while the cotton-headed tamarins showed the opposite response in these sessions. A negative relationship between frequency of anti-predator behaviors and day of study was discovered both for sessions with the fox and sessions with the snake in the Brazilian bare-faced tamarins.



**CONCLUSION:** Predator models, particularly a stuffed fox, are an effective way of inducing anti-predator behaviors in these tamarin species, although a habituation effect should be alerted for.

