

Personality, judgement bias, and cognitive skills in the miniature donkey

Author: Maria Pinto - mpalmapinto@gmail.com

Supervisors: Amy Mclean, Per Jensen

Do individuals show personality-related bias? How does it affect their cognition?



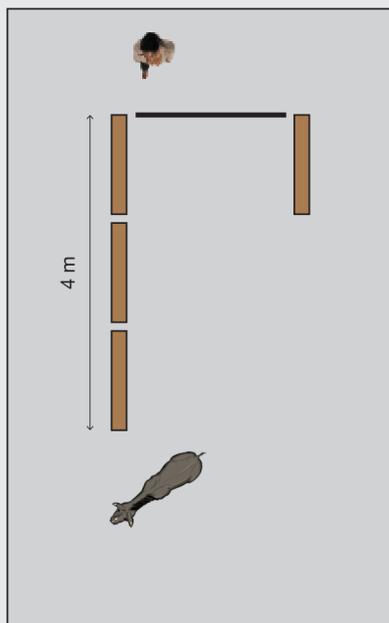
Looking to **understand at what level animals** living under good conditions and showing low stress levels **might experience negative mental states and low expectations** towards new stimuli.

RESULTS

Detour task

Walking around a barrier.

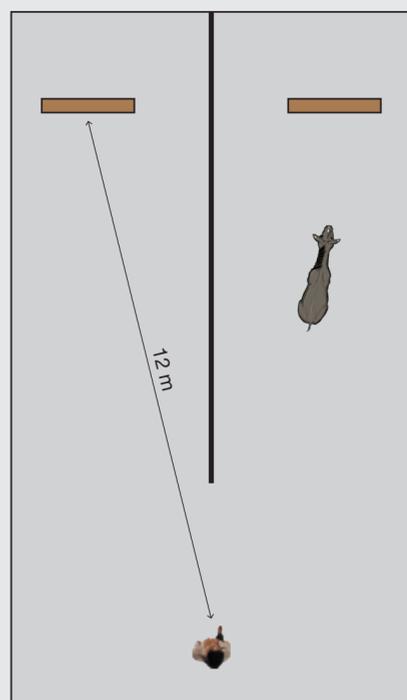
Laterality was more influential than **reasoning** and **spatial learning**.
Latency was correlated with **Concentration**.



Memory task

Recalling the location of a hidden object.

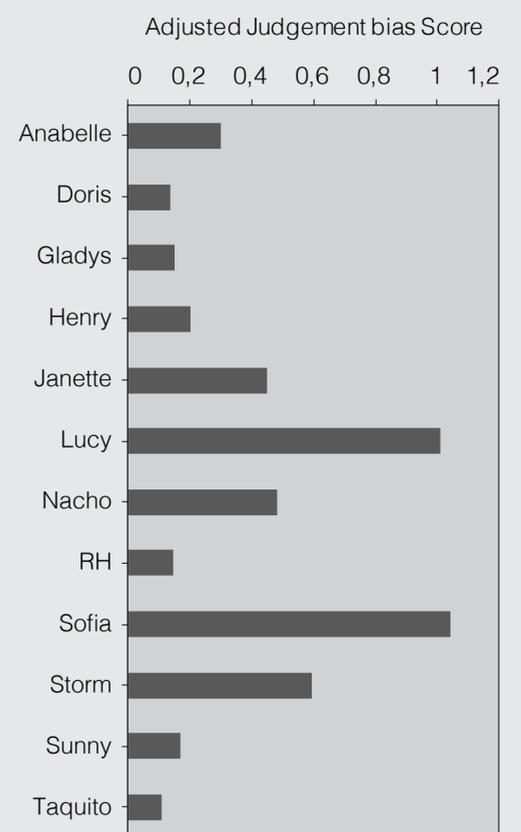
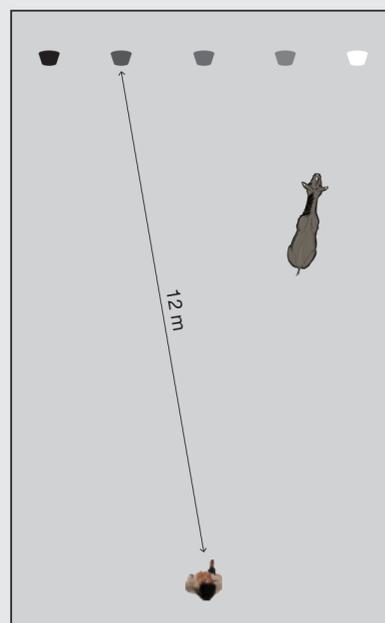
Short term memory: **1'30"**



Judgement bias task

Discriminating between rewarded and unrewarded stimuli.
Approaching an ambiguous stimuli.

Curiosity was correlated with **optimism**.



DISCUSSION

Answers to these questions are a big contribution to the understanding of **animal welfare** and possibly transposable to **human psychology**.

Personality might be a predictor of optimism/pessimism, independently of circumstances, but no evidence was found to indicate that those bias influence cognitive abilities.