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“Pet Behaviour Problems: Can music exert influence on the behavior of animals, especially of cats?”

We all have the experience that music can change our mood: from sadness to excitement and calming down. Someone said that music is the most abstract kind of art with the most real effects on men. In Humane medicine a lot of literature about the effect of music for example on stress, pain and fear is existing. How can these effects be explained? I want to offer the following hypothesis: Endogenous rhythms like breathing or heart rate can be influenced or triggered by offering rhythmical acoustical signals. Using a rhythmical signal in the range of the heart rate occurring at rest, the heart rate will decrease to that value and the mood will calm down. The composer of music for humans knows this facts by intuition which has it's origin in experience of his own reactions provoked by destined rhythms. In animals we do not have this kind of intuition and therefore we have to apply our knowledge of physiology, the knowledge of the frequency of endogenous rhythms for example in relaxed and exaggerated animals.

Applying this knowledge we produced music for cats with should fulfill the following demand: calming down the mood of cats, decreasing agonistic behavior and sounding well for cats and humans. The composed music has been tested in an animal home and we could detect the expected effects by ethological and statistical methods.

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Dr. Hermann Bubna-Littitz was born 1949 in Vienna. He started the study of veterinary medicine in 1969 and finished it with the “ doctor of veterinary medicine” in 1977 with a thesis on memory transfer in rats. Since 1977 working as assistant and since 1988 as associate professor at the institute of physiology at the veterinary university of Vienna. 1988 habilitation for physiology. 1988 also starting a lecture on ethology and 1995 one on behavioral disturbances in dog and cats. A few years ago also starting therapy of behavioral disturbances of cats and dogs at the university.