

Pet Behaviour Problems:

Can music exert influence on the behaviour of animals, especially of cats ?

H. Bubna-Littitz,
Inst. of Physiology, Vet. Med. Univ. of
Vienna



music for cats

Observation of the influence on activity,
interactions and locations
by presenting music especially designed for cats
in a period of four days

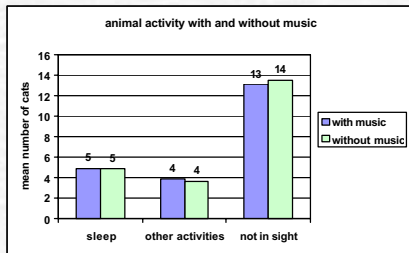
questions

- ☞ animal activity with and without music
- ☞ individual distance from loudspeaker with and without music
- ☞ number of aggressive interactions with and without music
- ☞ individual resting time on speaker within speaker-distance > than 0,5m with and without music

animals, material and methods

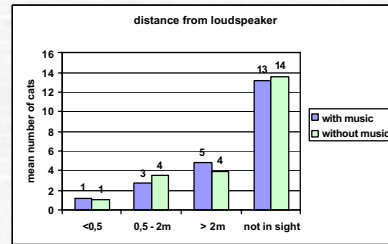
- ☞ Recording time: totally each 10 h with and without music from 8:00am to 18:00pm
- ☞ Animals: 21 cats (female/male, castrated/non castrated)
- ☞ Videocamera /CD player outside the enclosure, loudspeaker within the enclosure

results: activity



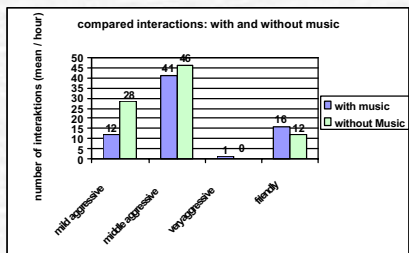
- No difference in activity-pattern with or without music
- Music does not seem to disturb animals

results: locations



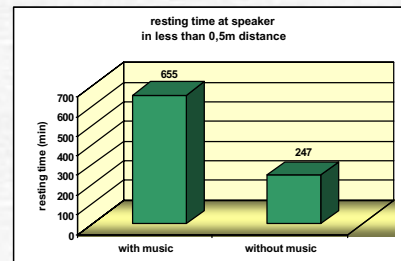
- No significant difference with or without music

results: interactios



- frequency of less aggressive interactions decrease while music is offered
- Due to short observation time only a trend can be affirmed

results: individual stop time



- While music is offered, animals are spending significant more time in the surrounding of the loudspeaker (Chi² test, $p > 0,01$)

discussion

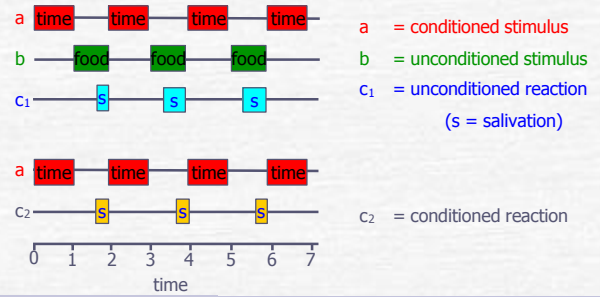
animals like to stay close by the Loudspeaker:

➔ **music is found to be pleasant by animals**

aggressive interactions decreasing:
the appearing trend could be affirmed through long lasting observation

therapeutic use e.g. against housesoiling could be tested

temporal conditioned reaction



Physiological parameters depending on the mood

	aroused	calm
heart rate	↑	↓
respiratory rate	↑	↓
EEG		
• frequency	↑	↓
• amplitude	↓	↑