

A Study on How Domestic Cats' Nutritional Behavior is Affected by Adjustment Stress

Authors : Maria Magdy Danial Riad

Abstract : The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis is activated by the adaptation stress, and this might result in the alteration of certain behavioral signs. The primary purpose of this paper is the adaptive stress effect on dietary behavior, which is directly correlated with changes in plasma cortisol levels. Physiological factors have a role in systems of adaptation and stress. Objectives: Ten clinically healthy cats were included in the study, and they were all kept in the same setting. Methods: On days 1, 5, 9, and 10 of the stay, each cat's behavior was observed through ethograms, and the serum cortisol levels were also measured at the same time. Significant behavioral changes in terms of nutrition were seen on the first day, with 50% of the participants not feeding and all participants not watering. Toward the study's conclusion, between days 5 and 9, there were no longer any discernible changes in the dietary habits, which might be attributed to the adaptation to the new living conditions. Cortisol variations in serological levels were consistent with behavioral changes; in 50% of the participants under observation, there was a substantial increase in values ($p < 0.05$), which gradually declined as the study came to an end.

Keywords : domestic cats, ewes, nutritional behavior, adjustment stress, plasma cortisol levels

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