

Why do rhesus macaques display pacing behaviour in captivity?

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1 Introduction

- Many animals such as the rhesus macaque pace while in captivity but not in the wild.
- It has been suggested this is due to stress or boredom which would indicate a welfare issue.

2 Aims

- To behavioural code 8 macaques on 3 different days; Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.
- To draw conclusions as to the function of pacing from the differences in living conditions between the days.

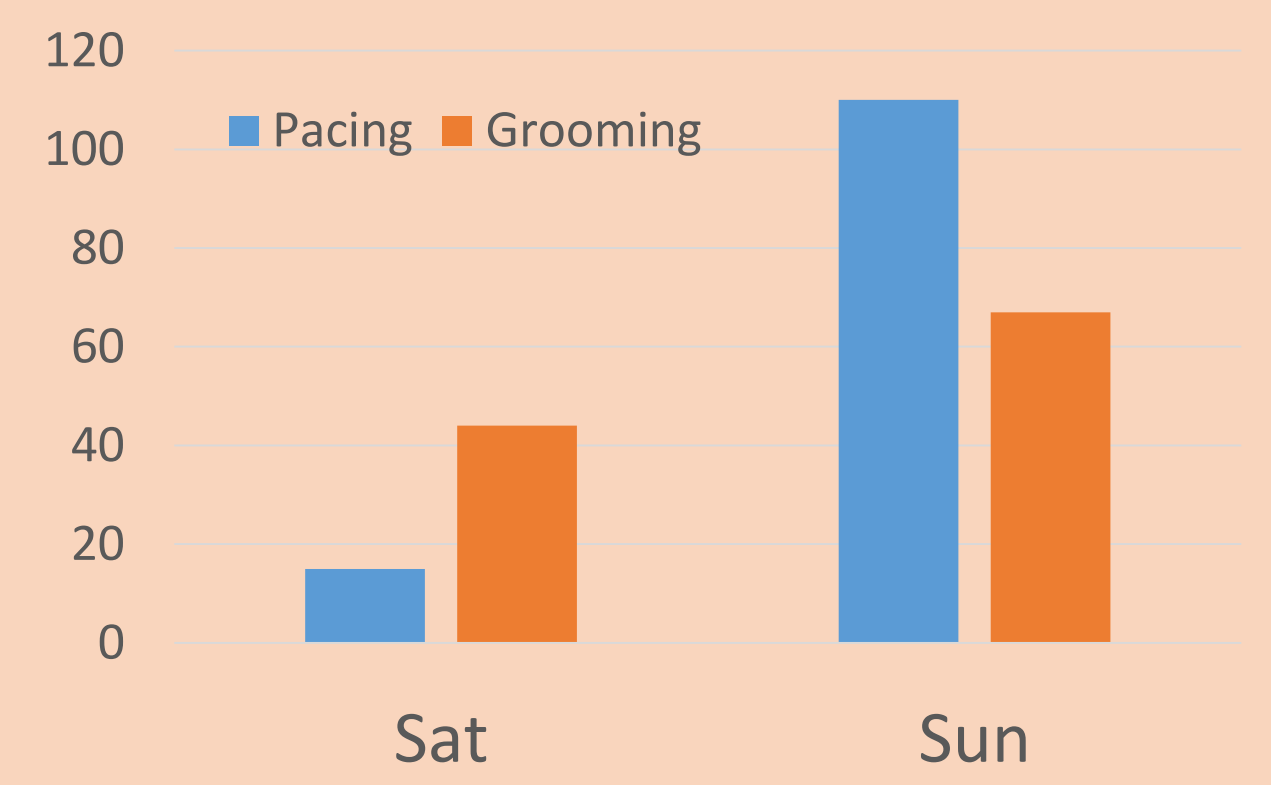
3 Methods

- 8 male macaques were behavioural coded every 10 seconds for 10 minutes at 06.40am on the 3 selected days.
- The data for the 4 monkeys displaying pacing behaviour was analysed using a 3x1 ANOVA followed by a paired t-test.

4 Results

- The difference between days was found to be between the Saturdays and Sundays.
- P value of 0.079 means we can conclude there is a trend to be less pacing on Saturdays than Sundays although the result isn't significant.
- The results also seemed to suggest pacing and grooming may serve the same function although further research will be needed.

5 Results



6 Conclusion

- The day effect could be due to Saturdays providing less stressors for the monkeys suggesting pacing is an indicator of stress.
- This would be an important tool for identifying when welfare conditions are insufficient for animals in captivity for research and zoos.