



FACILITY CONSTRAINTS

RMC Mate Compatibility Workshop

Your mate compatibility and/or mate choice research design/plan will be dictated by the physical constraints of your facility. It's important to design your project around these factors and within the limits of your team and facility so your team can develop a plan that will be successful. Here are some of the factors we consider when developing new mate compatibility research/plans.

Please fill out the following questionnaire in conjunction with your team.

SCHEDULES & TIME CONSTRAINTS

1. What time do keepers/volunteers arrive on site? _____
2. What time does AM cleaning take place if applicable? _____
3. What time are animals fed in the AM? _____
4. What time are the animals most active during the day? _____
5. What time does PM cleaning take place if applicable? _____
6. What time are animals fed in the PM? _____
7. What time do keepers/volunteers leave the site? _____
8. For your current research plan, how many individual animals will have an observation performed per day? _____
9. How many different individual observers do you have available on a given day?

10. How many total hours does each observer have to dedicate to behavioral observations per day? _____
11. Using the information provided above, how long can each observation be at maximum per animal? _____
12. How many years can your institute dedicate to this plan? _____

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS OF ENCLOSURES

13. How many enclosures are available for your mate compatibility research/plan?

14. Will you be separating sexes? (Yes / No) _____

15. How long will you need to house animals apart from each other?

16. Do you have additional enclosures/holding facilities to separate animals?

17. How will these areas be utilized during your mate compatibility plan and do they need any special preparations?

18. How long will it take to prepare these areas?

19. Do you have the ability to safely divide enclosures if needed?

20. How will you divide the enclosures and how many enclosures will this create?

21. Do you have the ability to co-opt other spaces to provide temporary housing? Explain.

22. List the factors that can be standardized across enclosures:

23. List the factors that cannot be changed in your enclosures:

24. Do animals have areas that provide for howdies that allow auditory, chemical, and physical interaction between sexes? If not can these be provided? How will they be provided?

25. Will you be collecting and presenting scent (urine, fecal, pheromone) or acoustic recordings? (Yes / No) _____

26. How many different individuals will you need to collect scent or acoustics from?

27. Will you need to collaborate with outside facilities for these collections?

28. How long will it take to collect and/or ship scent or acoustics?

29. If introducing scents, do you have locations you can present and secure the scents? (Yes / No) _____

30. How and how often will you need to sterilize scent equipment? And how long will this take? How will this affect your research time in between experiments?

VETERINARY PROTOCOLS/APPROVALS

31. Do you need veterinary approval for any of your protocols? (Yes / No) _____

32. How far in advance should you obtain these approvals?

33. Do you need to monitor endocrinology and/or coordinate with the lab for fertilization? (Yes / No) _____

34. How long will this take and how may it interfere with your mate compatibility plans?

35. Will you be coordinating with the PMC on your breeding/mate compatibility plans? (Yes / No) _____

36. How far in advance will you need to consult with the PMC?

ORGANIZATION APPROVALS

37. Do you need IACUC approval from your institution for your mate compatibility plan? (Yes / No) _____

38. How far in advance should you obtain these approvals?

39. If needed, do you need approval from the Welfare Department of your institution for your mate compatibility plan? (Yes / No) _____

40. How far in advance should you obtain these approvals?

41. If needed, do you need approval from the Research Department of your institution for your mate compatibility plan? (Yes / No) _____

42. How far in advance should you obtain these approvals?

43. Will you need to coordinate with your Research Scientists? (Yes / No) _____

44. Do you need volunteers and/or interns? (Yes / No) _____

45. How long will it take to train volunteers and/or interns?

46. How long will it take to get volunteers and/or interns approved by your institution?

47. Do you need to provide annual reports?

a. Who is responsible for the report?

b. How long will each report take?

DATA ORGANIZATION

48. Will you be using a behavioral recording app such as ZooMonitor or Animal Behaviour Pro? (Yes / No) _____

49. How long will it take to set up and convert ethograms to your app?

50. Do you have electronic storage space for your research videos/data?
(Yes / No) _____

a. How long will it take to arrange for electronic storage?

51. How long on average will it take for one of your staff members/volunteers/interns to enter a behavioral observation into the computer?
