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| **Newcastle University** | **Full Ethical Review Form** |
| *(Version 2.1)* |  |
| **Section 1:** | **Applicant Details** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
|  |  |
| Applicant Name | *Principal Investigator* |
| Contact Email | *PI@ncl.ac.uk* |
| Academic Unit | *School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development* |
| Project Type | *Student Project* |
| *Additional details for non staff projects* |  |
| Type of Degree Programme | *Postgraduate Taught (e.g. MSc / MA)* |
| Module Code | *ACE8000* |
| Supervisors Email | *supervisor@ncl.ac.uk* |
| Supervisors Academic Unit | *School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development* |
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| **Section 2:** | **Project Details** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| Project Title | *Does enrichment with perches above human eye level reduce stress in shelter housed cats?* |
| Project Synopsis | *The study uses observation methods to test whether cats in rescue shelters are less stressed when they have a high perch to rest on. As well as observing general behaviour to assess the benefit of the perch, the cats will be presented with novel objects and their behaviour observed and will be tested for how long it takes them to approach a human. It is expected that the perch will reduce stress, improving welfare.* |
| Project Start Date | 01/01/2015 00:00 |
| Project End Date | 01/03/2015 00:00 |
| High Risk Flags from Preliminary | 'Animal'  'Humans Non-Clinical' |
| MyProjects Reference | 0 |
| Project Funder Details | Primary:  Secondary:  Tertiary: |
| External Collaborators | County Cat Rescue |
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| **Section 3:** | **Existing Ethics, Sponsorship & Responsibility** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| Ethical Approval in place | No |
| Ethical Approval accepted by faculty | N/A |
| No of Approvals uploaded | 0 |
| Approving Body Details: | Name:  Reference:  Date of Approval: |
| NHS Research Sponsor name | 0 |
| NUTH Reference | 0 |
| External responsibility for Project Conduct, Management & Design | Conduct: , , , () Management: , , , () Design: , , , () |
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| **Section 4:** | **Project Outline & Proposed Research Methods** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| **4.1 Project Outline and Aims** |  |
| In everyday language, briefly explain the aims of this research including the anticipated benefits and risk. In cases where the use of technical or discipline specific terms is unavoidable please explain their meaning clearly. | This project aims to observe the behaviour of cats currently in a rescue shelter when they are given a platform above eye level that they can rest on to see if it decreases anxiety in a shelter environment.   The benefits of the study will be to improve cat welfare whilst in a shelter and improve their chances of being rehomed quickly as cats who are less stressed will be more willing to interact and generally are in better health which helps them to be adopted.  There are no risks to the animals as there are no harmful or invasive procedures. Enrichment in the form of the shelf perch and toys for the novel object test might cause transient mild stress towards the novel objects but the cats are generally already habituated to humans entering their enclosure for daily husbandry and handling, as well as the regular addition of new toys for mental stimulation. In the latency to approach test the cats will voluntary come to the human and not doing so is their choice. As discussed earlier the cats are already habituated to humans (staff, volunteers and visitors) so any distress is unlikely. |
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| **4.2 Proposed Research Method** | **(Experimental Design)** |
| In everyday language, please provide an outline of the research methods in a clear step by step chronological order. Noting any pertinent information such as whether the research involves overseas partners and how you will handle the research data. | The test will be in three phases: Phase 1- the cats are observed twice a day for an hour for six days during their normal daily lives to see what types of behaviour they are displaying. Any behaviour observed will be recorded on an ethogram which is a list of behaviour and definitions to accurately identify them. After each minute the observation will move to the next randomly allocated cat, and so on for an hour, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. On the 7th day a novel object test will be done by placing specific toys in the cage and observing the reaction of the cat for 10 minutes, recording the behaviour on an ethogram every 30 seconds. A stranger and a known human will entice the cat to approach and a record of how long it took for the cat to approach will be made. The test will last for up to ten minutes and if the cat has not approached by then the human will leave and "no approach" recorded. Finally the shelf perch will be added to the enclosures. These are held to the walls by suction cups and need no tools to fix up, therefore not causing noise and stress to the cats. The cats will then be left for three days to adjust to the new shelf. The same methodology will then begin again on the 11th day to see how the cats behave with the addition of the shelf for another six days, after which, on the 17th day the cats will be given the novel object and human approach test again, and the shelf will be removed and the cats left to adjust for three days. On the 21st day the study will repeat for the last time without the shelf, followed by the novel object and human approach test. All data will be recorded on pre-printed sheets to ensure consistency and will be later analysed for statistical significance. |
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| **Section 5:** | **Animals** |
| *Only completed if animals risk identified* |  |
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| **5.1 Home Office License** |  |
| Is the work covered by an existing Home Office license? | No |
| Reference: | N/A |
| Do you intend to apply for a Home Office License? | No |
| Has the Comparative Biology Centre been consulted? | No |
| Has the Home Office been consulted? | No |
| If your project involves wild caught animals, are permissions in place? | No |
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| **5.2** Why is the use of animals necessary in this project? | This study is specifically to measure behaviour in cats in rescue shelters and can only be done at the whole animal level. |
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| **5.3** What kinds of animals will be used and how many of each? | Up to 30 domestic cats will be used. |
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| **5.4** What will happen to the animals during and after the project? | The animals will be observed in their normal home conditions and will continue their normal daily routine throughout the study and afterwards. Observations are direct and will be done by myself standing quietly outside the cage to watch for different types of behaviour in order to assess stress levels. An approach test will be used to see if the cat approaches a human and how long it takes. A novel object test will be used to see how the cats react to new stimuli. These will be completely voluntary for the cat and no part of the study will cause harm or distress to the animals in the shelter. If a cat’s welfare is compromised by the study work will be stopped with that cat but this is unlikely since all the cats are habituated to humans and new items being in their environment. |
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| **5.5** Who will be carrying out the project? Briefly describe the relevant experience and expertise of the persons involved? | I will be carrying out the project myself. I am currently studying for an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare and the project is the dissertation component of the degree, with the backing of Newcastle University.  I have previous experience of observation studies and have lived and worked with cats for many years. |
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| **5.6** Where will the animals be housed/located? If the animals are being observed in the wild or in establishments such as zoos, has permission been obtained from the appropriate authority? For any work outside the UK, do the standards of animal care and accommodation comply with UK codes of practice? If not explain how they differ. | The cats will be housed in a county cat rescue shelter. Permission has been obtained from the manager. |
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| **5.7** What checks will be made on the animals, how frequently and by whom? What actions will be taken in the event of any adverse effects on the animals? | The cats are the responsibility of the centre manager who complies with all relevant legislation regarding the care of cats in shelter homes. The cats are regularly checked throughout the day by staff and volunteers at the shelter.  If any cats are extremely distressed and do not habituate to the situation when given the opportunity they will be removed from the study. |
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| **Section 6:** | **Humans in a Non-Clinical Setting** |
| *Only completed if humans non-clinical risk identified* |  |
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| **6.1 Does the research specifically target / involve participants who are:** |  |
| Adults (over 18 years old and competent to give consent) |  |
| Children / Legal minors (anyone under 18 years old) |  |
| People from non-English speaking backgrounds |  |
| Persons incapable of giving consent |  |
| Prisoners or parolees |  |
| Recruited through a gatekeeper |  |
| Welfare recipients |  |
| How many participants do you plan to recruit? |  |
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| **6. 2** From which source and, by what means do you plan to recruit your participants? |  |
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| **6.3 Participant Information** |  |
| Will you inform participants that their participation is voluntary? |  |
| Will you inform participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?] |  |
| Will you inform participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs? |  |
| Will you provide an information sheet which includes the contact details of the researcher / research team? |  |
| Will you obtain written consent for participation? |  |
| Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation (i.e. give them an explanation of the study aims and hypotheses)? |  |
| Will you provide participants with a written debriefing too? |  |
| If you are using a questionnaire, will you give participants the option of omitting questions that they do not want to answer? |  |
| If your work is experimentally based, will you describe the main experimental procedures to the participants in advance so that they are informed about what to expect? |  |
| If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed? |  |
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| **6.4 Participant Consent** |  |
| Please describe the arrangements you are making to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating in your study and the use of any identifiable data, and whether you have any reasons for withholding particular information. Due consideration must be given to the possibility that the provision of financial or other incentives may impair participants ability to consent voluntarily. |  |
| Participants should be able to provide written consent. Please describe the arrangements you are making for participants to provide their full consent before data collection begins. If you think gaining consent in this way is inappropriate for your project, please explain how consent will be obtained and recorded. (A copy of your consent form must be provided with your submitted application) |  |
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| **6.5 Participant Debriefing** |  |
| It is a researchers obligation to ensure that all participants are fully informed of the aims and methodology of the project, that they feel respected and appreciated after they leave the study, and that they do not experience significant levels of stress, discomfort, or unease in relation to the research project. Please describe whether, when, and how participants will be debriefed. (A copy of your debriefing sheet must be provided with your submitted application) |  |
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| **6.6 Potential risk to participants and risk management procedures** |  |
| Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks (small and large) to participants (e.g. physical, psychological, etc.) that may be associated with the proposed research. Please explain any risk management procedures that will be put in place and attach any relevant documents in the section below. Please answer as fully as possible. |  |
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| Supporting Documents attached | 4 |
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| **Section 7:** | **Data** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| **7.1** Please describe how data will be accessed, how participants confidentiality will be protected and any other relevant considerations. Information must be provided on the full data lifecycle, from collection to archive. | Data will be collected at the project site on paper and then transferred to a private computer for analysis. During and after the project, the paper records will be securely stored in a locked drawer and electronic data password protected. |
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| Supporting Documents attached | 0 |
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| **Section 8:** | **Environment** |
| *Only completed if environmental risk identified* |  |
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| 8.1 Please provide the locations in which your research will take place, together with the anticipated risks (emissions, destruction of habitat or damage to artefacts etc.), potential damage and mitigating measures planned. | 0 |
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| **Section 9:** | **International (non EEA)** |
| *Only completed if international risk identified* |  |
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| **9.1** For any research conducted outside the European Economic Area (EEA) the researcher is responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Please state the location(s) in which your research will take place? | 0 |
| **9.2** Have the appropriate local ethical considerations been complied with and relevant permissions sought? | 0 |
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| **Section 10:** | **Permissions** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| Please use the table to record details of any licenses or permissions required and / or applied for e.g. Local Authority District, Natural England etc. Ensure you include the reference, status and the date it was granted (if applicable). | 1.Permission / License: , Awarding Body: , Reference: , Date: , Status:  2.Permission / License: , Awarding Body: , Reference: , Date: , Status:  3.Permission / License: , Awarding Body: , Reference: , Date: , Status:  4.Permission / License: , Awarding Body: , Reference: , Date: , Status:  5.Permission / License: , Awarding Body: , Reference: , Date: , Status: |
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| Supporting Documents attached | 0 |
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| **Section 11:** | **Risk Considerations and Insurance** |
| *Mandatory Section* |  |
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| **11.1** What are the potential risks to the researchers themselves? This may include: personal safety issues, such as those related to lone working, out of normal hours working or to visiting participants in their homes; travel arrangements, including overseas travel; and working in unfamiliar environments. Please explain any risk management procedures that will be put in place and note whether you will be providing any risk assessments or other supporting documents. | Travel to the site may be a risk for vehicle accidents or breakdown. I will drive carefully and have a charged mobile phone with me at all times.  If a cat becomes aggressive I might get scratched or bitten. To avoid this I will watch the cats when I need to go in the enclosures by assessing their body language and leave if they do not calm down. I will have some plasters and bandages in case of any wounds and will let a member of staff know exactly where I am. I will also have my charged phone if I cannot get out of the enclosure. |
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| Supporting Documents attached | Participant Consent Form, Participant information Sheet |
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| **Section 12:** | **Human Tissues** |
| *Only completed if Human Tissue's are being used* |  |
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| Does your study involve “relevant materials” as defined by the Human Tissue Act (2004)\*? | N/A |
| Will you be storing the material for more than 7 days prior to either: processing the material to remove the cellular component, or transferring the material elsewhere (to non-Newcastle University premises)? | N/A |
| Have you agreed a storage location with the Designated Individual? | N/A |
| Location | 0 |
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| **Section 13:** | **Supporting Documentation (not uploaded elsewhere)** |
| *Non-Mandatory Section* |  |
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| Supporting Documents attached | 0 |
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| **Section 14:** | **Admin Section** |
| *Non-Mandatory Section* |  |
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| LimeSurvey Response ID | 1419 |
| Date Completed | 01/01/2015 |
| Number of Documents uploaded | 2 |
| Appropriate Review Committee | Animal Welfare Ethical Review Board |
|  |  |