

Moore, R. S., Cabana, F., & Nekaris, K. (2015). Factors Influencing Stereotypic Behaviours of Animals Rescued from Asian Animal Markets: A Slow Loris Case Study. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 166, 131–136.

Moore is a professor in nocturnal primate research, Francis Cabana is a PhD student specializing on the nutritional requirements of slow lorises, while Anna Nekaris is a Professor in Anthropology and Primate Conservation. The article by Moore, Cabana, and Nekaris (2015) examines the slow loris while in captivity. The natural home range of the slow loris can spread to 35 hectares, and the animal is known to roam more than two kilometers a night. Thus, when placed in captivity, the enclosure conditions can result to significant welfare problems. This article studies how this animal behaves while in captivity. The research was conducted in Indonesia at the Ciapus Primate Rescue Centre, and involved observations of stereotypic behaviors such as posture, repetitive movement, and speech, which are some indicators of discomfort. The authors hypothesized that increased placement in socially inappropriate conditions leads to stereotypies.

The study revealed that 33% of the lorises caught in the wild and kept captive at the facility displayed stereotypic behavior. The study further found that behaviors that indicate stressful conditions decreased as the number of lorises were increased in each enclosure. As opposed to common belief, the study showed that lorises sleep in social groups at night and are not solitary as had been thought. Thus, they interact with others throughout the night. Hence, when they are housed in solitary confinement, they are prone to increased levels of stress. The authors concluded that even though rescue centers provide seemingly suitable habitats for captured wild animals, their natural habitats still remain the best places in which they should live. This means that, in practicality, even when kept as pets in unnatural social groups or under solitary confinement, wild animals will be subjected to various social problems.

a. I selected this article because it captures a unique aspect of animals in rescue centers. Ordinarily, people believe that animals in rescue centers are safe and comfortable, but that is not the case.

b. The author directs this study to research scientists and rescuers so that captive animals can be released to the wild in the shortest time possible.

c. The authors are qualified scientists with proper skills and knowledge to conduct a study of this magnitude. Moore and Nekaris are both professors in primate research while Cabana is a PhD student researching on the nutrition of lorises.

d. The authors divided this report into five sections, namely, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion.

e. The introduction provides a short analysis of the dangers facing the slow loris in the pet trade, followed by the key observations made on the animals in captivity. The results are then analyzed and related to previous studies and secondary data in the discussion. In the conclusion, the authors recommend that it is necessary to study the behaviors of the animals immediately after being released back into the wild.

f. The data for this study was presented in tables and graph with further explanations on the data.

g. Peer review refers to the act of evaluating the work of an author, whether scientific or academic, by other professionals in the same field. It is important because it adds credibility to the work.

h. This article helped me realize that even though rescue centers help animals rescued from poachers, it is not an ideal environment. The full functionality and wellbeing of the animals is only realized in the wild.