



Protocol B: Playrooms for rats – example ethogram

Code	Behaviour	Definition
SL	Sleep	Lying with eyes closed
ST	Stationary	Immobile but alert (eyes open) with no directed attention while lying, sitting, standing, rearing or leaning.
M	Movement	Walking, rearing, jumping or running.
F	Intake maintenance	Eating food or faecal pellet, or drinking.
G	Non-intake maintenance	Grooming, yawning, stretching, sneezing, scratching, urinating or defecating.
SI	Social investigation	Sniffing any part of another individual
A	Agonism	Upright posture, box/push, wrestle, stand over or defensive crouch, pin down or pinned on-back, bite or being bitten, chase or being chased.
B	Bedding/nesting material manipulation	Sniffing, digging in, handling, or eating the floor substrate/litter material.
AL	Allogroom	Gently grooming any part of another individual.
O	Out of sight	Behaviour of rat unable to be observed.
Oth	Other	Other behaviour
S	Sniff cage roof/wall or air outside of cage	Nose applied to cage roof, wall or outside the cage, making sniffing movements.
C	Climb	Climbing on any part of the cage (e.g. roof).
AB	Abnormal behaviour	Bar chewing: gnawing/biting at wire bars of the cage.
AG	Aggressive groom	Aggressive grooming of another individual following agonism.
E	Enrichment	Any interaction with enrichment object, including: chewing; climbing on; sniffing; or scent marking.