

ASPCApro.org

ASPCA Feline Spectrum Assessmentsm

Introduction

Purpose of Feline Spectrum Assessment

- Culmination of ASPCA “Is that Cat Feral?” research project
- Feline Spectrum Assessment (FSA) allows us to package research findings into a tool for animal welfare organizations to use
- Determines whether a cat is socialized to humans and behaving fearfully, or is unsocialized to humans

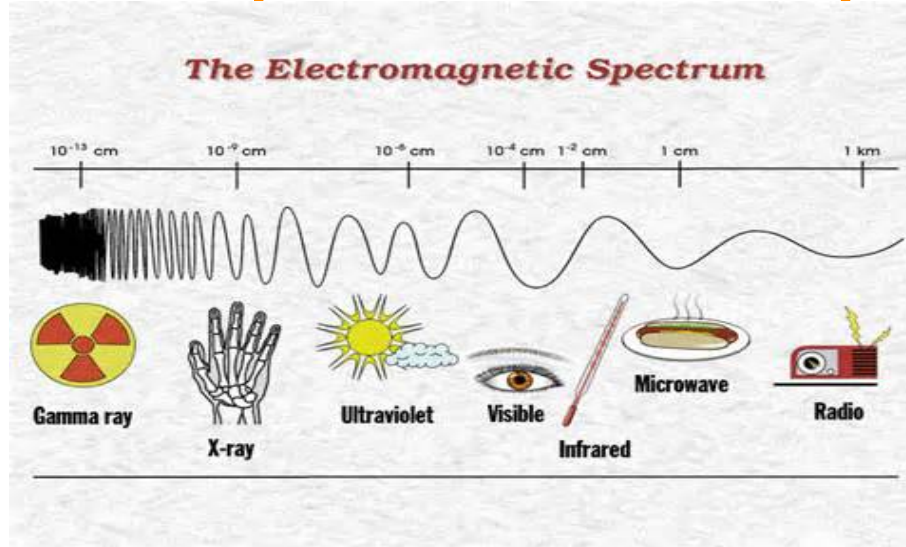


Research Question

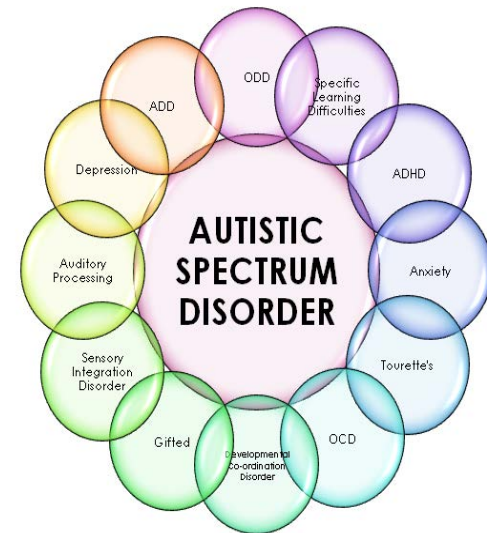
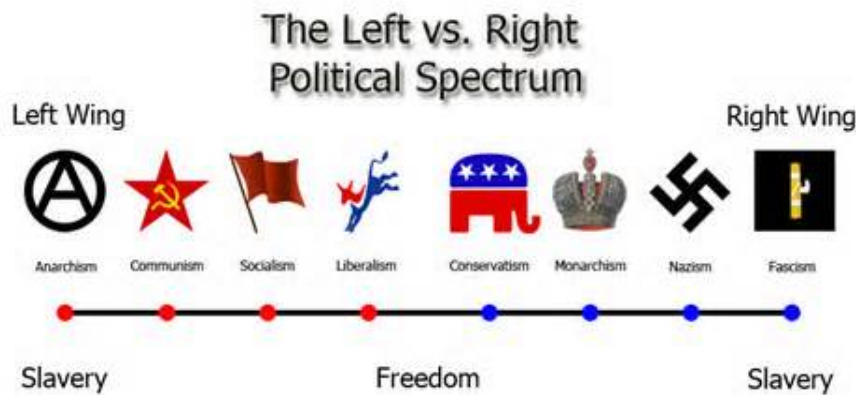
Can we identify a cat's comfort level with people by interactions with an evaluator and through touch, reaction to movement and sounds, and behavior around toys and food?



The spectrum of spectrums



| | |
|--------|-------------|
| Red | 255 000 000 |
| Orange | 255 165 000 |
| Yellow | 255 255 000 |
| Green | 000 128 000 |
| Blue | 000 000 255 |
| Indigo | 075 000 130 |
| Violet | 238 130 238 |



Research – Behavior Spectrum

Extremely *Unlikely* to be
Socialized

Extremely *Likely* to be
Socialized



What lead us to create Feline Spectrum Assessment?



Phase 1

National Survey

- Only 15% had written guidelines
- Most shelters and rescues made outcome decisions for cats within the first 3 days at the shelter
- Often, cats deemed feral were euthanized, sometimes within hours of arrival
- Most shelters and rescues would attempt to touch these cats with unknown socialization histories





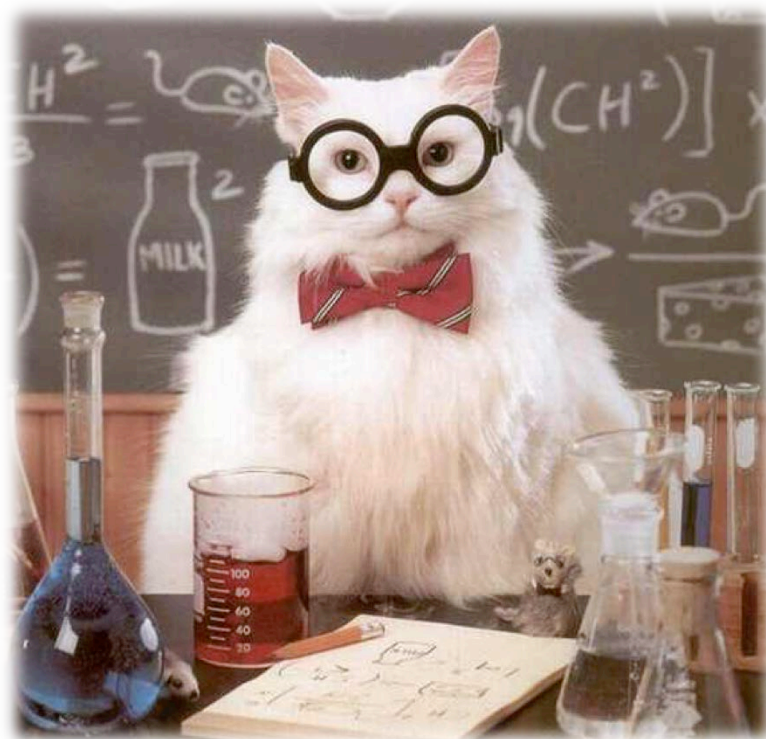
Phase II

Developing an Assessment Tool

Phase II

What We Found

- What we developed took a long time and was not easy
- Some cats never showed us any behaviors
- We still could not identify social cats that were frightened
- Back to the drawing board!



Phase III

Modifying the Assessment Tool





CHECKLIST



Phase IV

Creating the Final Tool



Phase V – Beta testing



I WANT YOU
For some BETA Testing

Module 1: Introduction (Complete!)

Module 2: Getting Ready for the FSA

Module 3: Behavior Checklist

Module 4: Assessment Items

Module 5: Scoring

Module 6: When to Begin the Assessment



Professional