ASPCA Feline Spectrum Assessment™

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

The Electromagnetic Spectrum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave Type</th>
<th>Wavelength (nm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gamma ray</td>
<td>10^-3 - 10^-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-ray</td>
<td>10^-5 - 10^-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultraviolet</td>
<td>10^-6 - 10^-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visible</td>
<td>10^-7 - 10^-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrared</td>
<td>10^-10 - 10^-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave</td>
<td>10^-12 - 1 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>1 km - 10 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Left vs. Right Political Spectrum

Left Wing: Anarchism, Communism, Socialism, Liberalism, Conservatism, Monarchism, Nazism, Fascism
Right Wing: Slavery, Freedom, Slavery

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

- ADD
- ODD
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Anxiety
- ADHD
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Sensory Integration Disorder
- Gifted
- Tourette's
- Autism
- ADHD
- Anxiety

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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

Can you fix it?
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