

Forced Swim Test

Setup:

- 1) Place rats into a cylinder of water at 23–25 °C, of 30 cm depth to prevent their feet and tail from touching the bottom.
- 2) Start the timer, and record behaviors every 5s for 15 minutes. The behaviors of interest are (1) **climbing**, with the rat making active attempts to escape from the tank, including visual searching for the escape routes and diving; (2) **swimming**, with the rat staying afloat, pedaling, and making circular movements around the tank; (3) **immobility**, with the rat not making any active movements.
- 3) After 15 min, take rats out, dry them with cloth towels, and return them to their home cages.
- 4) 24 hr later, rats are returned to the cylinder of water, and their behaviors are recorded for 5 min. The basic procedure is the same as that described in “Step 1”.