

# Feeding Behavior in Cats, Dogs, and Grey Parrots by Casey Weaver

*Felis catus*



*Canis lupus familiaris*



*Psittacus erithacus*



# The Cats



- Cat 1 (C1):The Dark Lord Mr. Licorice
- 2 years old
- All Black, DSH
- Male, Neutered
- 12 lbs
- Ad libitum\*



- Cat 2 (C2): Princess
- ~16 years old
- Black & White, DLH
- Female, Spayed
- 12.5 lbs
- Ad libitum\*

\*Both eat Purina® Kit & Kaboodle®

# The Dogs



- Dog 1 (D1):  
Duffy
- 10 years old
- Wheaton,  
Scottish  
Terrier
- Male,  
Neutered
- 40 lbs
- 3 meals a day:  
Totaling 1  $\frac{3}{4}$   
cup + 3 Tbsp  
of chicken\*



- Dog 2 (D2):  
Mack
- 10 years old
- Black, Scottish  
Terrier
- Male,  
Neutered
- 30 lbs
- 3 meals a day:  
Breakfast+Dinner:  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup & 1 Tbsp  
chicken  
Lunch:  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup & 1  
Tbsp chicken\*



- Dog 3 (D3):  
Fiend
- 10 years old
- Australian  
Shepherd/  
Husky mix
- Male,  
Neutered
- 52 lbs
- Science Diet:  
Totaling 2  $\frac{3}{4}$   
cups a day + 3  
Tbsp of  
chicken  
Breakfast+  
Dinner: 1 cup & 1  
Tbsp chicken  
Lunch:  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup & 1  
Tbsp chicken

\*Both Duffy and Mack eat Hill's Prescription Diet w/d Digestive/Weight/ Glucose Management Chicken Flavor Dry Dog Food

# The Grey Parrot

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- Parrot 1 (P<sub>1</sub>): Tiki
- 23 years old
- African Grey Parrot
- Female? (We think)
- Handful of Zupreem FruitBlend or Fiesta Parrot Food; with seeds. Two times a day (Morning & Night)

# Cat feeding



- Cat 1 ate for 1 min 56 sec.
- He did not drink water before or after the meal.
- Cat 2 ate for 2 min 16 sec.
- C2 ate 1/8<sup>th</sup> cup
- C2 did not drink water before or after
- C2(But she does drink a lot of water typically)

# Cat Feeding Ethogram

Behavior	Description	% shown
Licking	Licking the food	16.4%
Lip licking	Licking of the lips	12.1%
Tongue flicking	Tongue shaken outside of mouth	6.9%
Chewing	Breaking down food inside the mouth with teeth	25.9%
Prehension	Casting food into mouth with tongue and teeth	27.6%
Surveying	Looking in the area around himself	4.3%
Moving	Moving head to a different position to attain food	23.3%
Crouching	Down on all four paws with elbows completely bent	100%

# Dog feeding



- **Dog 3:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup for lunch + 1 tablespoon of chicken : 1 min 46 sec
- 1 cup for dinner + 1 tablespoon of chicken: 2 min 15 sec
- He didn't drink water before or after either meal
- ❖ **Dog 1:**  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup for lunch + 1 tablespoon of chicken : 1 min 12 sec
- ❖ He drank water after this meal: 1 min 15 sec
- **Dog 2:**  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup for lunch + 1 tablespoon of chicken: 2 min 48 sec
- He did not drink water before or after

# Dog Feeding Ethogram

Behavior	Description	% shown
Chewing	Breaking down food inside mouth	5.2%
Licking	Licking the food	52.6%
Prehension	Casting food into mouth with tongue, or biting food	45.2%
Lip licking	Licking of the lips	5.9%
Moving	Moving head to a different position to attain food	26.7%
Surveying	Looking in the area around himself	3.7%
Standing	Up on all four paws, elbows not bent	100%

# Grey Parrot Feeding



- Parrot 1 ate for 46 min. 47 seconds
- P1 drank water for 25 seconds, 13 min 20 sec. into her meal
- Handful of pellets and seeds

Another eating method ->

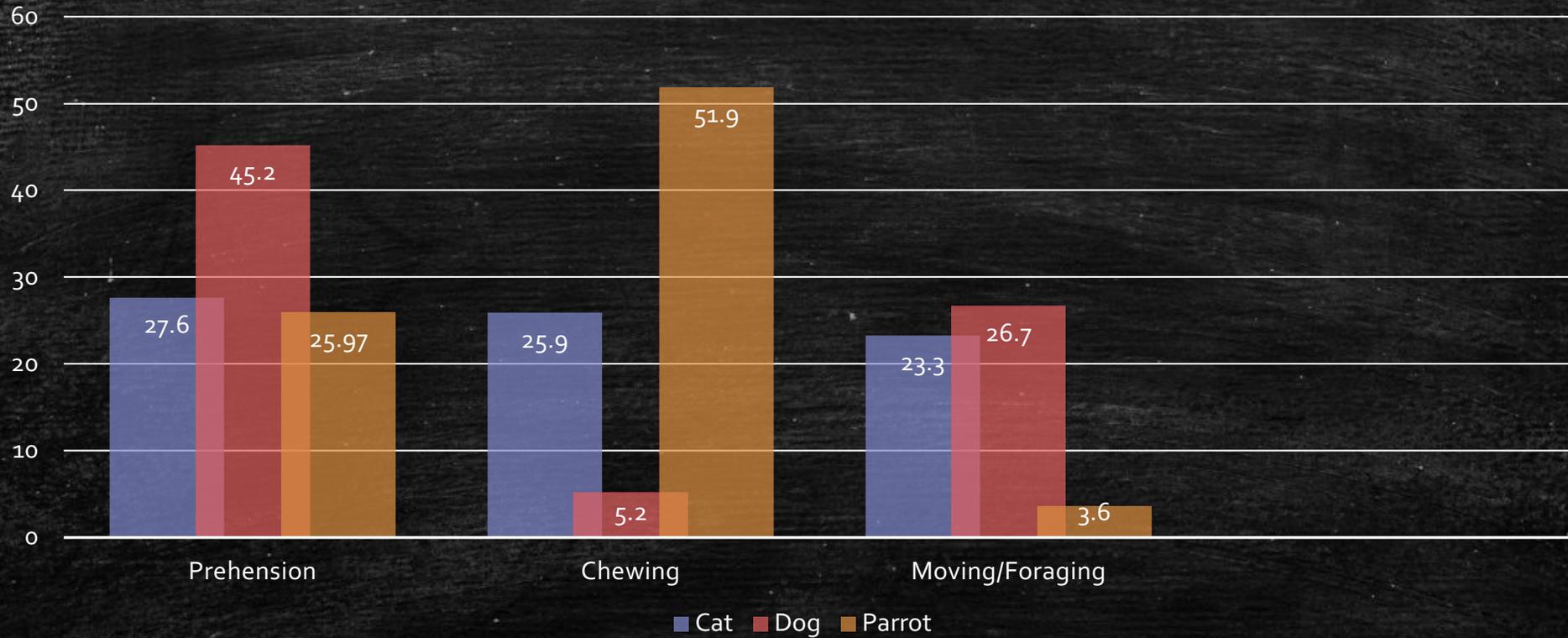


# Parrot Feeding Ethogram

Behavior	Description	% shown
Foraging	Moving food around in bowl with beak, searching for food	3.6%
Adjusting	Moving food around her beak with the tongue to get a better angle	8.7%
Prehension	Picking up food with beak	25.97%
Chewing	Breaking down food inside of a mostly closed beak	51.9%
Cracking	Breaking seeds open with beak	10.6%
Standing	Standing on both legs	100%
Drinking	Putting beak into the water , and consuming water	.89%

# Results

## Comparing Feeding Behaviors



# Literature on Cat Feeding Behavior

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- Cat 2 ate 1/8 cup of food, which is a perfect small meal for her. In the wild, cats eat about 12 small meals a day, their diet is comprised of rodents (12 mice = 3 rats) (Houpt, 2011).
- I was unable to find the tongue flicking motion that Cat 1 was making anywhere in the literature. I believe he is either biting his tongue or dislodging stuck pieces of food.

# Literature on Dog Feeding Behavior

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- Dog 3 ate his food rapidly, not taking time to chew. This relates to competitive eating. Alpha wolves get to eat first, then younger wolves have to compete for the remaining food. (Bradshaw, 2016)
- "Rapid feeding may also be an adaptation to scavenging during the early stages of domestication." (Coppinger, 1995)
- Dogs that have 24 hour access to food tend to eat a bunch of small meals. (Houpt, 2011)
- The increase of animals in a house can increase the dogs interest in the food. (Houpt, 2011) Dog 3 was visiting my house (2 dogs, and 2 cats), from a house with 1 cat. Dog 3 was observed eating faster than normal.

# Literature on Grey Parrot Feeding Behavior

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- Parrot 1 ate for about 46 min. 47 sec. and I found in the literature that Grey parrots average feeding time is  $47 \pm 18$  min. (van Zeeland, Schoemaker, Ravesteijn, Mol & Lumeij, 2013)
- I observed that when P1 drinks she sticks the tip of her tongue in the water first, and rapidly taps it on the roof of her beak. "Water is collected with the tip of the parrot's tongue. The parrot swallows it by pressing its tongue onto its palate." (Schmid, Doherr & Steiger, 2006)
- A behavior I wasn't able to observe during this feeding was beak cleaning, the action of wiping her beak on her perch/branch, but I have observed her do it in the past. I have also observed her clean her beak with her claws. "Bill care: this takes place most of the time after the parrot has eaten, by performing wiping movements against a branch. When residual food sticks onto the beak, parrots raise a foot and try to use it to remove the bits of food with rubbing movements." (Schmid, Doherr & Steiger, 2006)
- "Parrots have taste buds on the roof of the mouth, and no saliva on their tongues." (Athán & Deter, 2009)

# References

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## References

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