



Feeding Behavior Of the Dog, Cat, and Fish

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Introduction

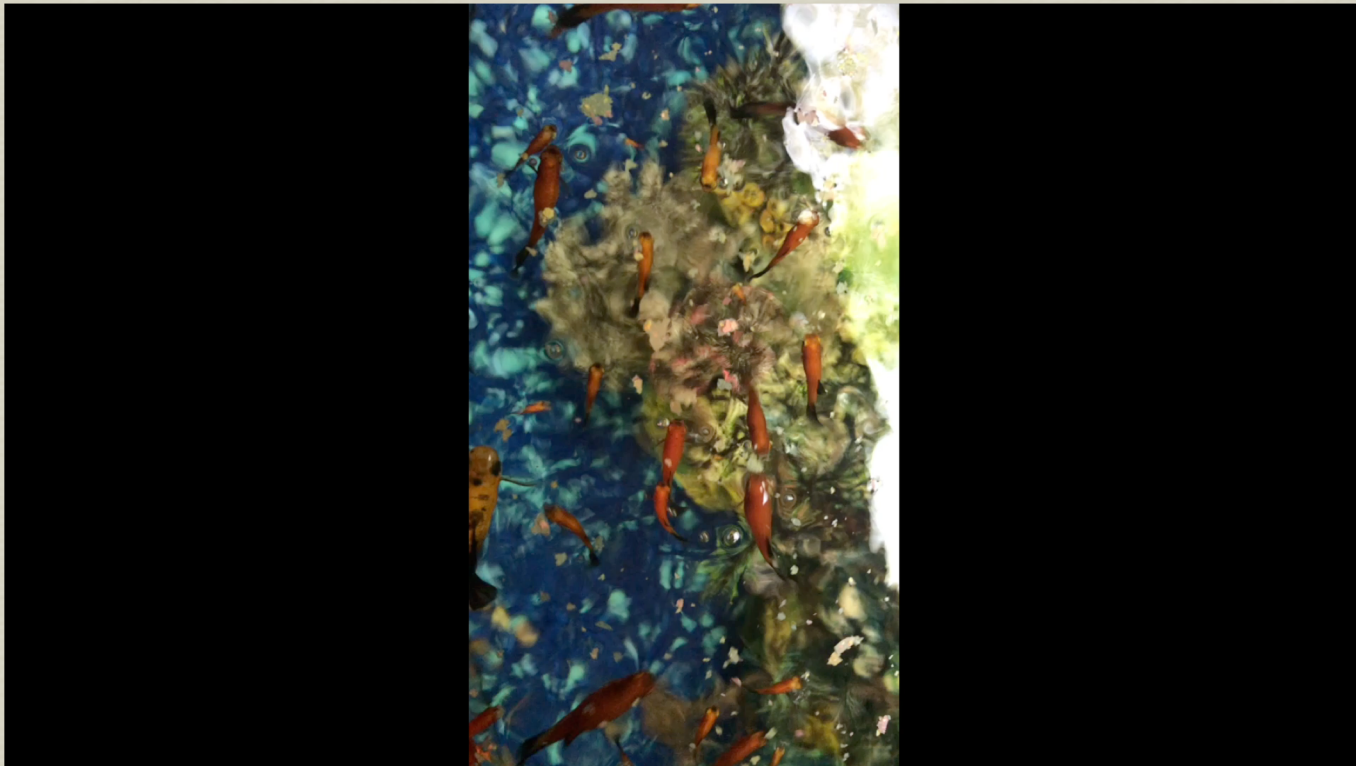
Dogs



Cats



Fish





Methods

Dogs

- ☞ 2 year old male
- ☞ Purina One SmartBlend Healthy Weight
- ☞ 1.5 cups twice a day = 3 cups daily
- ☞ Recorded for 1 minute 19 seconds

Cats



- ☞ Five year old male
- ☞ Purina One Indoor Advantage
- ☞ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup twice daily = 1 cup daily
- ☞ Recorded for 1 minute 49 seconds

Fish



- ☞ Platye and Big Belly Molly
- ☞ Omega One Flakes
- ☞ 2 pinches twice a day = 4 pinches daily
- ☞ Recorded for 47 seconds



Results

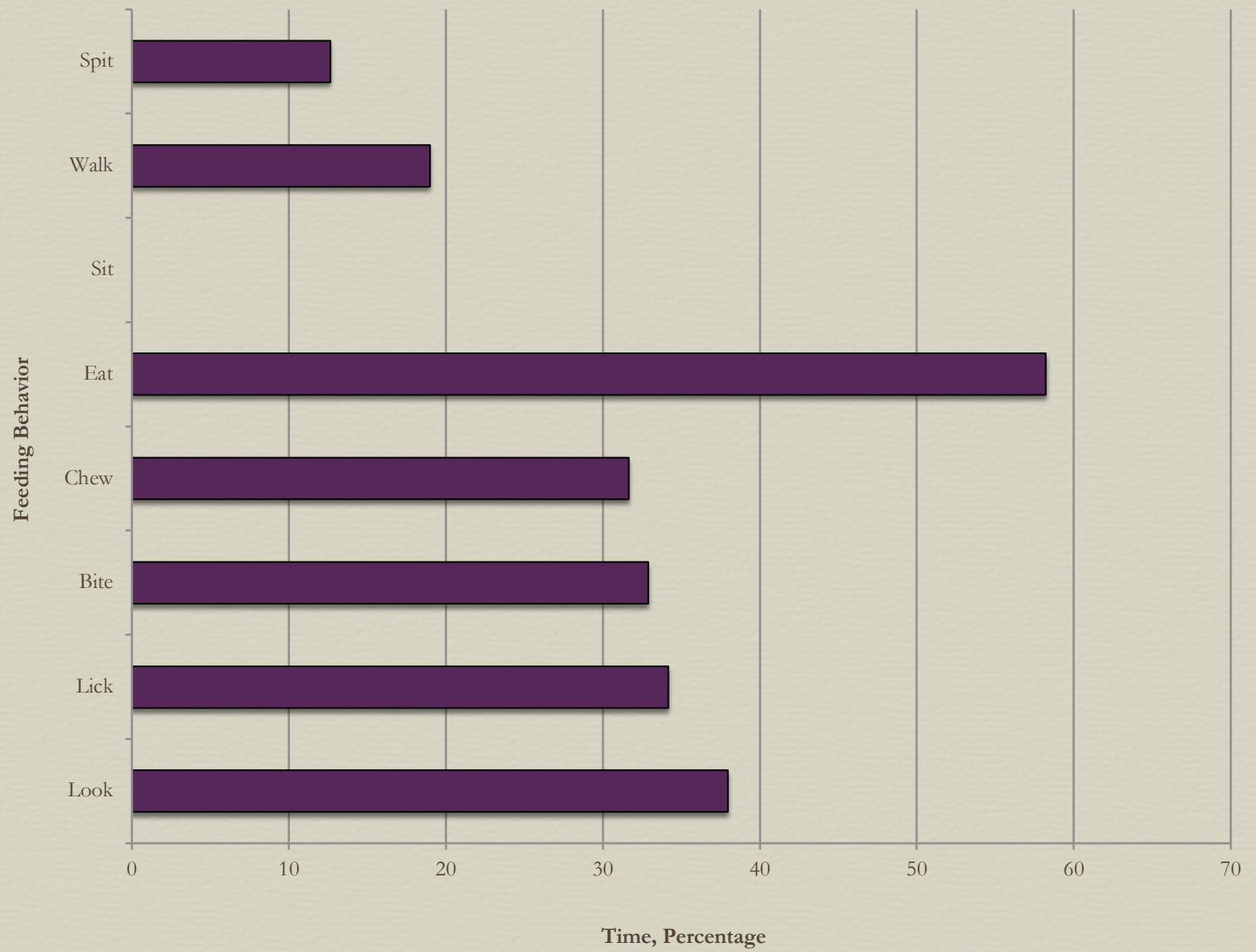
Dogs

- ❧ Grab a mouth full of food and take it elsewhere to eat
 - ❧ Hypothesis
 - ❧ Dogs will take their food away from where you are to protect it
 - ❧ Dogs take after their wolf ancestors and move their “pray” to eat alone
- ❧ Eat extremely fast
 - ❧ Hypothesis
 - ❧ Another thing they picked up from their wolf ancestor
- ❧ Used his tongue and teeth to pick up food
- ❧ Did not drink water before, during, or after

Ethogram



Look	Eye contact made with food
Lick	Tongue protruding from the mouth to pick up food
Bite	Using teeth to help pick up food
Chew	Grinding food in its mouth while not picking up more food
Eat	Ingesting food by chewing and swallowing
Sit	All paws and hind on the floor
Walk	Using legs to move calmly from one place to the other
Spit out food	Releasing a mouthful of food and re-eating it



Cats

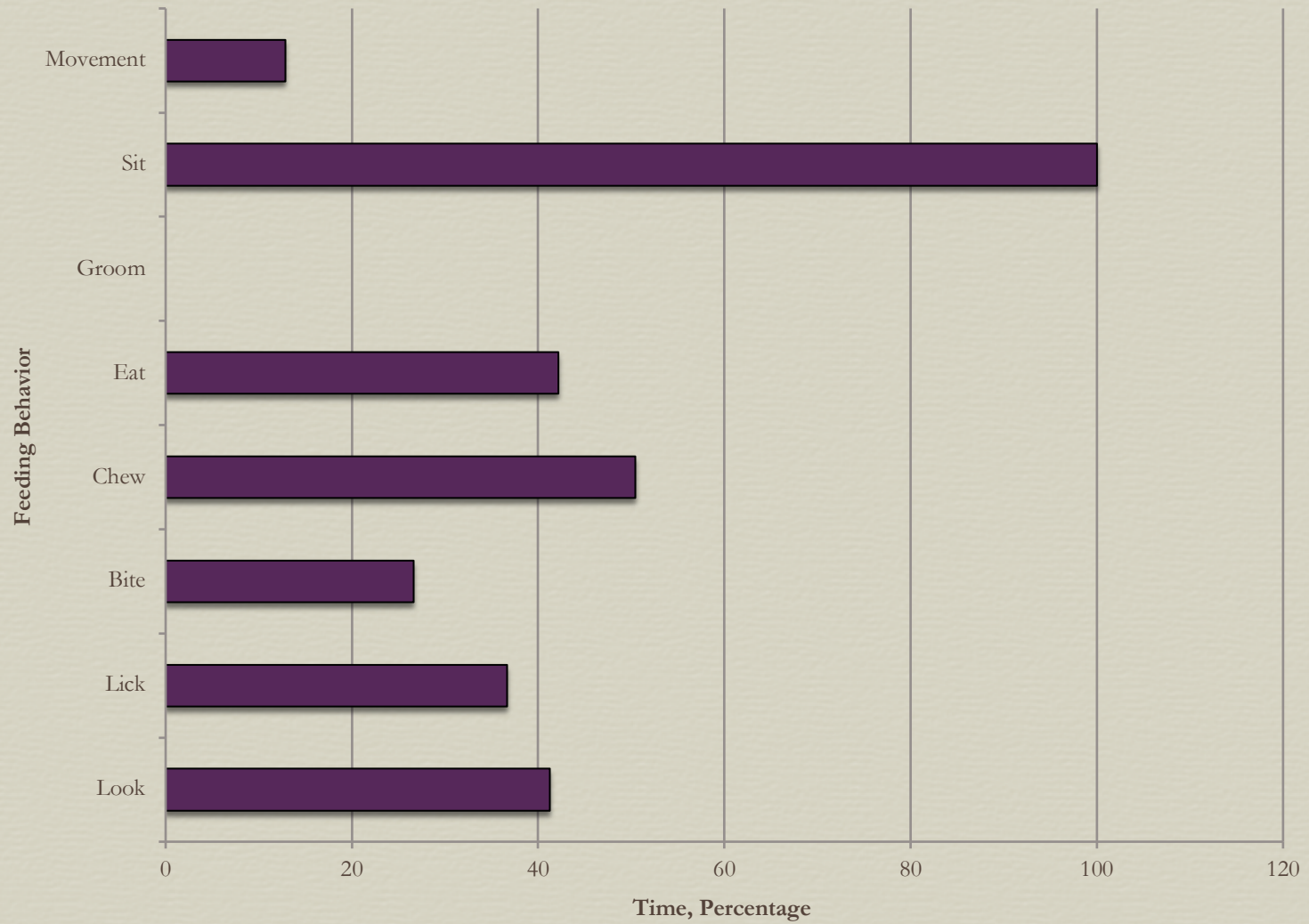


- ☞ Ate his food very slowly
- ☞ Never finished his food in one sitting (ate multiple small meals throughout the day)
 - ☞ Hypothesis
 - ☞ Birds and mice are natural food → small amounts at a time
- ☞ Liked his face after he was done with his food and licked his paw and wiped his mouth
 - ☞ Hypothesis
 - ☞ This is their way of cleaning their face like we clean it with a napkin
- ☞ Used his tongue to pick up food
- ☞ Did not drink water before, during, or after

Ethogram



Look	Eye contact made with food
Lick	Tongue protruding from the mouth to pick up the food
Bite	Using teeth to help pick up food
Chew	Grinding food in its mouth while not picking up more food
Eat	Ingesting food by chewing and swallowing
Groom	Lick itself to clean the food from its face
Sit	All paws and hind on the floor
Movement	Uses head to look around



Fish

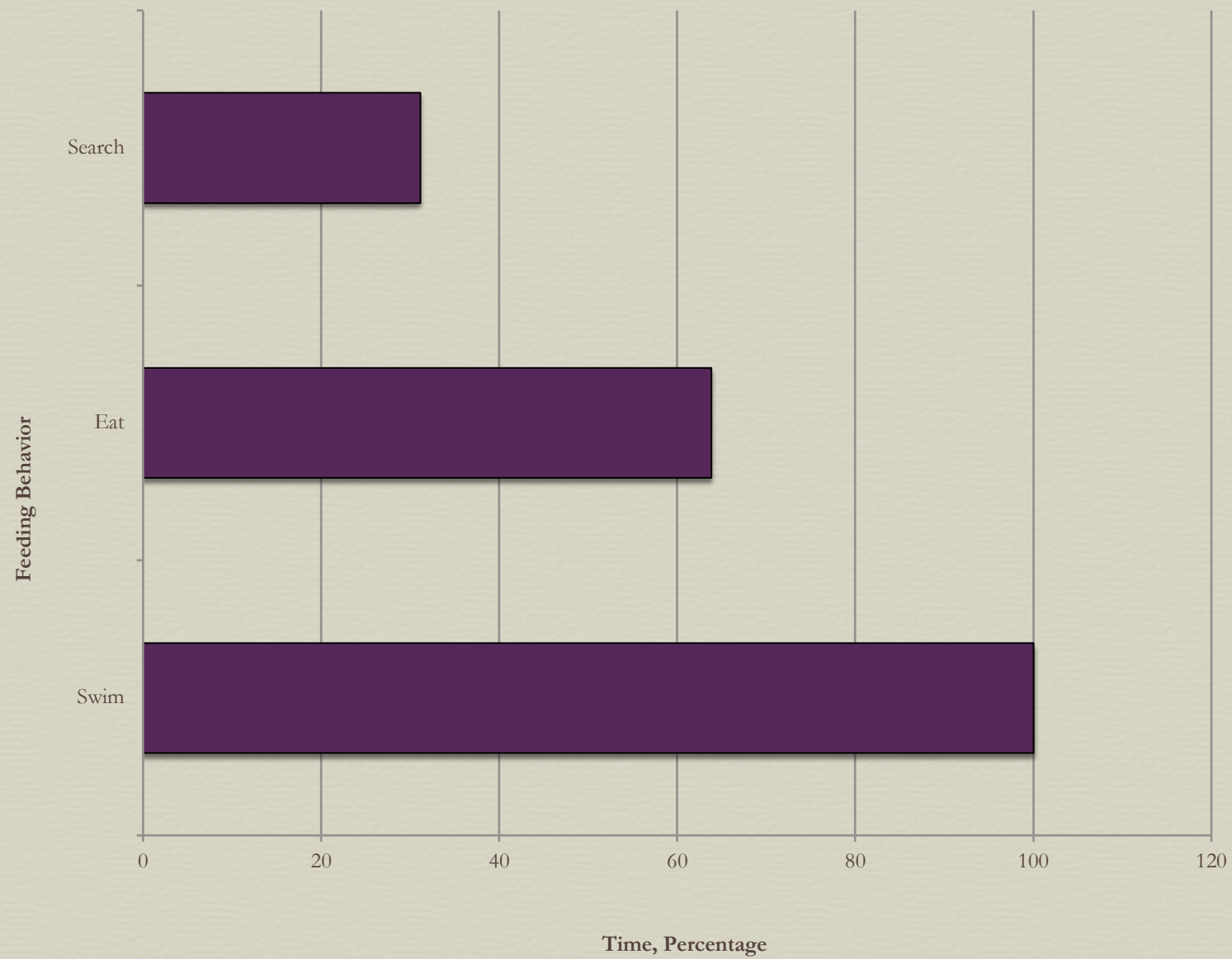


- ☞ Follows person around when you feed
 - ☞ Hypotheses
 - ☞ They are just hungry and has associated you with food
- ☞ Suction the water to pick up a pellet of food
 - ☞ Hypotheses
 - ☞ This is the only way they can catch the food

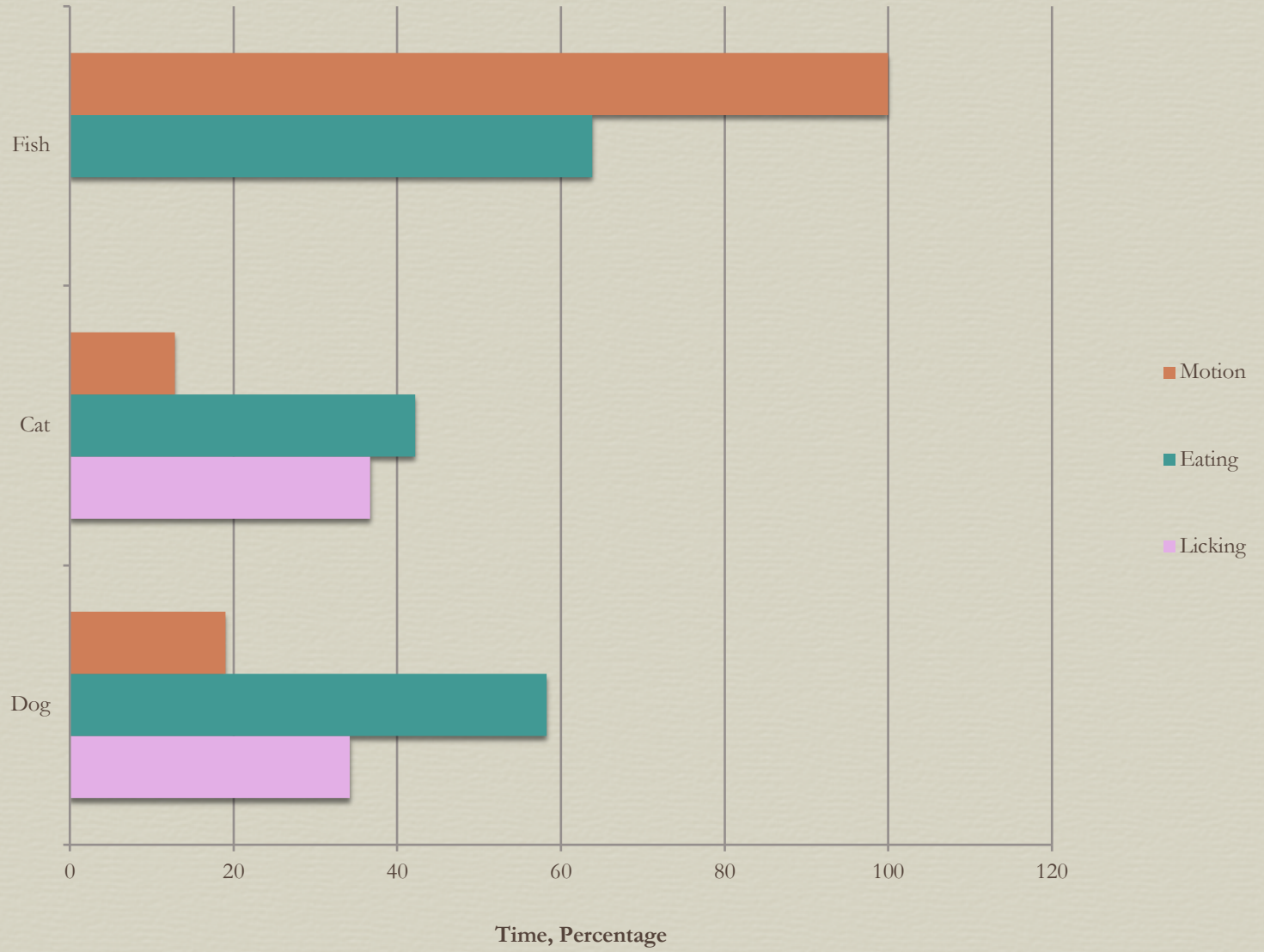
Ethogram



Swim	Moving around in the water
Eat	Ingesting food by swallowing
Search	Moving around looking for food



Feeding Behavior





Discussion

Dogs

- ❧ Wolf packs have alpha dog eat first then the rest of the pack can eat
 - ❧ Corresponds with observations
- ❧ Could not find literature on why dogs take a mouthful of food and take it to a different area to eat

Cats



- ❧ Wildcats hunting periodically throughout the day
 - ❧ Corresponds with observations
- ❧ Could not find literature on why they lick their lips and their paw and rub it on their face

Fish



- ❧ Vacuuming food:
 - ❧ Open mouth, buccal cavity, low pressure
 - ❧ Water will rush in and excess water released in gills
- ❧ Corresponds with observations
- ❧ Could not find literature on why they follow the person who feeds them

References

- ❧ Aarda, R. (1980). The Diet and Feeding Behavior of Feral Cats, *Felis Catus* at Marion Island. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*. 10(3-4). 123-128.
- ❧ Bradshaw, J. (2006). The Evolutionary Basis for the Feeding of Domestic Dogs (*Canis Familiaris*) and Cats (*Felis Catus*). *The Journal of Nutrition*, 136(7), 1927S-1931S. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/136.7.1927S>
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- ❧ Sazima, I. (1986). Similarities in Feeding Behavior Between Some Marine and Freshwater Fishes in two Tropical Communities. *Journal of Fish Biology*. 29(1). 53-65. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8649.1986.tb04926.x>
- ❧ Stanton, L., Sullivan, M., Fazio, J. (2015). A Standardized Ethogram for the Felidae: A Tool for Behavioral Researchers. *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, 173, 3-16