

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2016. 11. 29
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D2
<b>Name</b>	Duncan Wilson

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>	Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>	The 76 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Animal Psychology
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>	2016. 11. 23 - 2016. 11. 25 (3 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>	Prof. Hiromi Wada (Hokkaido University)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)	<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Animal Psychology was a great opportunity for me to learn about psychological research involving many different species including; primates, dogs, cats, rats, mice, pigeons and even insects. This was the second time for me to attend this meeting (the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the JSAP was held at Japan Women’s University in Tokyo). This time I decided to make an oral presentation on my most recent research entitled ‘Perceptual categorisation of primate faces by chimpanzees’. I found preparing for the talk quite intense and time consuming, but a great motivator to complete my data analysis and background reading on the subject. Although I experienced some technical difficulties during the presentation itself, which left no time to answer questions, overall, it was a good experience and I hope to have the opportunity to give the same talk again in the near future.</p> <p><b>Oral presentations:</b> Talks which I found particularly interesting included ‘Perception of subjective contours in pigeons’. The study involved training pigeons to search for an illusory triangle, or square, amongst illusory squares or triangles. After they learnt to search for a target, background textures and smaller targets and distractors were introduced. Discrimination was successfully transferred to the novel textures or items, suggesting the pigeons can perceive subjective contours. I also liked the talk ‘Searching for cognitive processes involved in insect learning’. Pavlovian conditioning in crickets suggests octopamine (OA) and dopamine (DA) neurons convey reinforcing signals of appetitive and aversive unconditioned stimuli, and that activation of these neurons is needed for appetitive and aversive memory retrieval, respectively. In addition, OA and DA neurons appear to mediate reward and punishment prediction errors. This suggests insect Pavlovian conditioning is based on sophisticated information processing that shares many features with mammals. Finally, I enjoyed the talk ‘Effect of metronomic sounds on pecking behaviour of budgerigars: A study using two response keys.’ Budgerigars were trained to peck left and right illuminated keys for a food reward and pecking timing was recorded. A metronomic sound was then presented in the background, which changed the rhythm of their key pecking behaviour.</p> <p><b>Posters:</b> I am interested in the link between cognition and emotion in animals, and so I found the following posters very interesting; ‘Individual ability for fear extinction is independent from depressive-like behaviours in rats’, ‘Does stroking stimuli induce a pleasant sensation in rats?’, ‘Oxytocin enhances rats’ helping behaviour for strangers’, ‘Effects of emotional conditioning and propranolol on maze learning in rats’ and ‘Fear conditioning in physically restricted mice’. However, these methods are either not permitted or impractical for investigating chimpanzee emotion, and so we must find new and innovative methods in the future.</p> <p>I sincerely thank Prof. Tomonaga (my supervisor) and Prof. Adachi for their very helpful feedback on an earlier version of my presentation. I would also like to thank PWS Coordinator Prof. Matsuzawa for financial support to attend the meeting. I look forward to presenting at the next meeting at the University of Tokyo.</p>

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**6. Others: Photos**



Hokkaido University Conference Hall (center)



Poster session at the Conference Hall



Sapporo Beer Garden

(A good chance to meet new researchers)



Sapporo Beer Garden



Skyline of Sapporo



Even the statues get cold in Hokkaido!