



# Efficacy of the feline temperament profile in evaluating shelter cats for adoption



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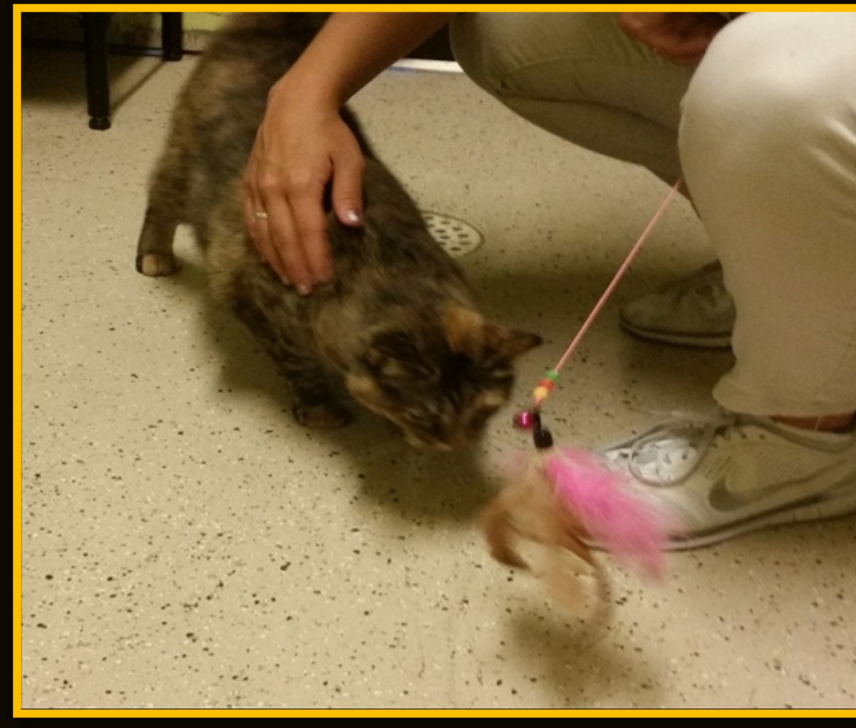
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## Background

- Behavior is a primary risk factor of cat relinquishment to shelters
- Cat temperament assessment instrument is needed
- Feline Temperament Profile (FTP) scores sociability, aggressiveness and adaptability



## Research Questions



- Feline Friends Project (FFP) matches shelter cats with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Interaction with cats may benefit children with ASD
- Cats are screened for calm and non aggressive temperament using FTP

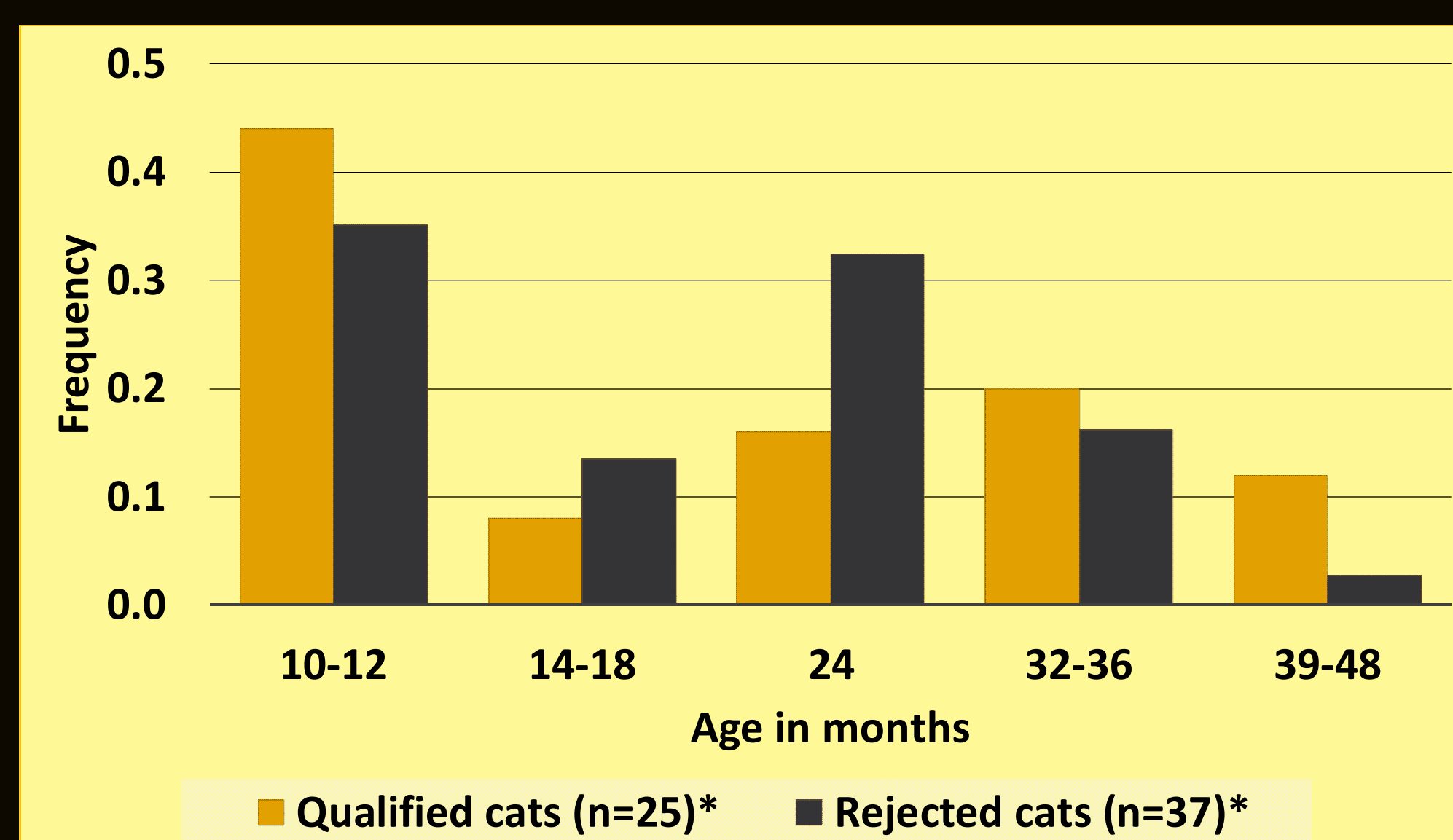
- What are similarities and differences between cats who qualified and those who didn't?
- What items of the FTP are most predictive of a calm temperament score in cats?

## Cat Descriptions

Table 1: FTP score comparison between qualified and rejected cats

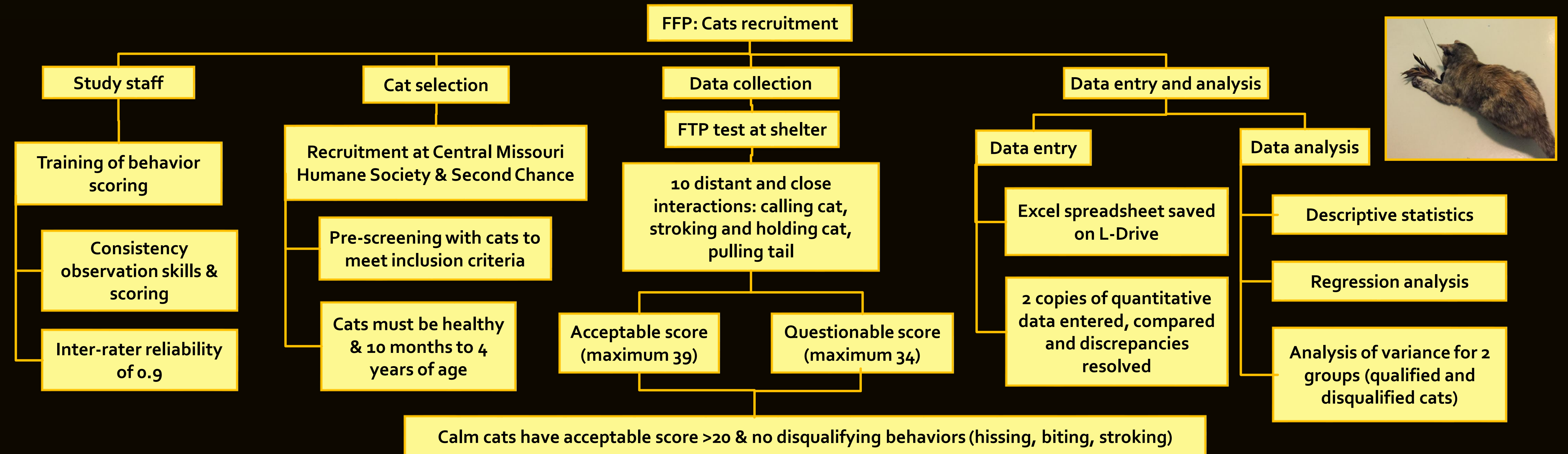
	Qualified cats (n=26)	Rejected cats (n=44)
Acceptable score	Mean=22.12 SD=2.176 Range=20-26	Mean=14.05 SD=4.939 Range=4-23
Questionable score	Mean=1.29 SD=0.588 Range=1-3	Mean=3.10 SD=1.841 Range=1-8

Figure 1: Age comparison between qualified and rejected cats



\* Missing data

## Study Design



## Prediction of Cat Temperament

Table 2: Comparison of acceptable scores by gender

Gender	Qualified cats	Qualified & rejected cats	Rejected cats
Male	n=9 Mean=22.11 SD=1.691	n=23 Mean=17.61 SD=5.298	n=14 Mean=14.71 SD=4.762
Female	n=17 Mean=22.59 SD=2.293	n=43 Mean=17.37 SD=5.988	n=26 Mean=13.96 SD=5.126



Table 3: Comparison of acceptable scores by shelter sites

Shelter sites	Qualified cats	Qualified & rejected cats
Humane Society	n=12 Mean=21.25 SD=1.485	n=16 Mean=19.50 SD=4.082
Fostering Shelter	n=14 Mean=23.43 SD=2.027	n=14 Mean=23.43 SD=2.027



Table 4: One-way analysis of variance of acceptable scores by gender & shelter sites

	Qualified cats	Qualified & rejected cats	Rejected cats
Gender	p=0.589	p=0.874	p=0.653
Site	p=0.005*	p=0.003*	

## Logistic Regression Analysis

Table 5: Percentage of explained variance in FTP scores

	Acceptable score	Acceptable & Questionable scores	Questionable scores
% of variance explained	84.3*	70.7*	79.3*

## FTP Validity

Data set can be reduced to 2 factors

Table 6: Results for all FTP behaviors (Cronbach  $\alpha$ =.65)

	Factor 1	Factor 2
% of variance explained	13.369	8.123
Items	• Meow • Rubs against legs or hands	• Comes & sniffs hand • Hiss/growl

Table 7: Results for acceptable behaviors (Cronbach  $\alpha$ =.82)

	Factor 1	Factor 2
% of variance explained	17.771	9.836
Items	• Meow • Head bumps	• Rolls • Purrs or rubs against hand

Table 8: Results for questionable behaviors (Cronbach  $\alpha$ =.55)

	Factor 1	Factor 2
% of variance explained	15.289	10.071
Items	• Hiss/growl • Attempts to strike	• Watches with no approach • Hiss/growl

## Conclusion & Implications



- FTP is a valid & reliable instrument
- FTP can be shortened to include Meow, Sniffs hands, Rolls, & Rubs with no loss of reliability
- Acceptable score predicts temperament in cats
- Cat scores differed by shelter but not by gender
- Cat temperament assessment may improve success of future adoption matches

## Project is made possible by

