

# Guinea Pig Olympics: Who Will Reach the Finish Line First?



Brownie



S40



Nacho

# PURPOSE & HYPOTHESIS



## Purpose:

Will food motivate a guinea pig to race through a maze faster?

## Hypothesis:

I think that Brownie (our younger guinea pig) will be able to make it through the maze the fastest because he loves to eat!



# RESEARCH



- Guinea Pigs are very smart and love to play.
- On the guineadad.com blog, he said a fun activity for guinea pigs was an obstacle course. He also said that guinea pigs love to search for treats.
- In The Guinea Pig Handbook, we read about what guinea pigs like to eat. They need vitamin C every day because their body cannot produce vitamin C.
- After trying different foods during their feedings we noticed that Nacho preferred sweet oranges, while Brownie preferred mint.
- Both guinea pigs love grass clippings.

# MATERIALS

- Cardboard Boxes
- Tape
- Box Cutter
- Towel
- Orange
- Grass Clippings
- Mint
- Guinea Pigs  
Nacho & Brownie



# EXPERIMENT

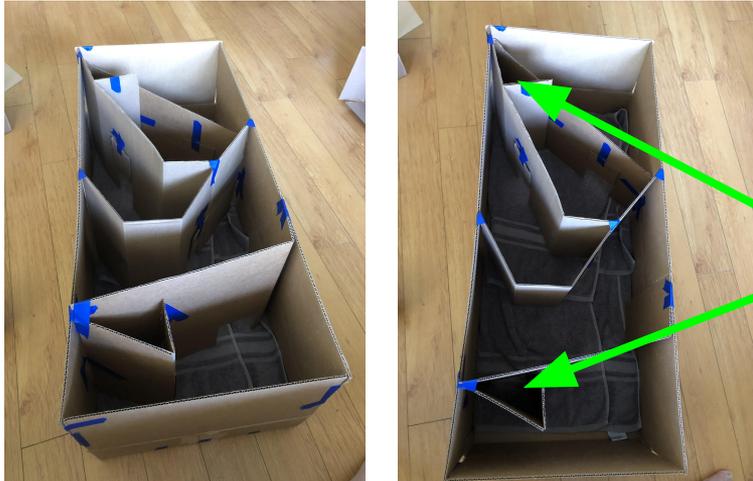


1. Design the Maze (Included two “dead end” areas of the maze to see if the guinea pigs remembered the path)
2. Build the Maze (cut boxes, add towel to the bottom of the cage and tape cardboard),
3. Get the Food (orange segments, grass clippings and mint)
4. Ran the Guinea Pigs through the course 5 separate times using different foods to motivate them to run through the maze
5. Gave the Guinea Pigs some love for completing the course

# PHOTOS



## Building the Maze



Dead  
Ends

## The Competitors



Nacho



Brownie

# PHOTOS

Round 1  
No Food



Round 2  
Oranges



Round 3  
Grass



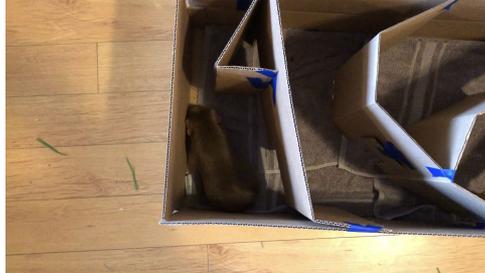
# PHOTOS



**Round 4**  
**Mint**



**Round 5**  
**No Food**



**Close Up**



# ANALYSIS



	Round 1 No Food	Round 2 Oranges 	Round 3 Grass 	Round 4 Mint 	Round 5 No Food
Nacho 	52 seconds	29 seconds	2 minutes 4 seconds	24 seconds (Fastest Run)	Did Not Finish Maze
Brownie 	Did Not Finish Maze*	3 minutes 18 seconds	36 seconds	32 seconds (Fastest Run)	38 seconds

\* Brownie sat in the starting room for 10 minutes without moving. Since Nacho had already run through the maze and guinea pigs are pack animals, we put Nacho in with Brownie hoping that Nacho would lead him to the end. Nacho ran the maze again and Brownie stayed in the starting room.

\*\*Nacho did not finish the course and started to try to destroy the walls of the

# CONCLUSION



- Based on our experiment, food did motivate the guinea pigs to go faster through the maze.
- Both Nacho and Brown ran through the maze the fastest in Round 4 with mint as the food.
- My hypothesis about Brownie was not correct. Nacho actually made it through the maze the fastest.



# REAL WORLD CONNECTION



- My experiment shows that food is good motivation to complete a task.
- If you want people to complete a task faster, offer them a treat at the end.





# WORKS CITED

- Guinea Dad Blog: Fun Activities for Guinea Pigs  
<https://guineadad.com/blogs/news/fun-activities-for-guinea-pigs>
- The Guinea Pig Handbook by Sharon Lynn Vanderlip, DVM
- Personal Observations of Guinea Pig feedings at our house



*GuineaDad*

