

town of Kansas, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

May 4, 1971

The following mammals have been accumulated from 12/10 mi N, 18/10 mi W Lawrence (P.O.), Douglas Co., Kansas and are in an aquarium with wire top (15 gal). The aggregate include *Synaptomys*, *Peromyscus leucopus*, *Reithrodontomys megalotis*, *Microtus ochrogaster*.

Some of the casual observations are as follows:

In transferring mammals from one cage to another for cleaning purposes, the subadults are more difficult to capture than are the adults.

At the drinking tube, *Microtus ochrogaster* dominates all other animals and fights other *ochrogaster*. *M. ochrogaster* ^{uses} hands in manipulating position at water tube, ^{and squeaks}. *Pero. leucopus* does not fight.

Both *M. ochrogaster* and *Synaptomys* push debris to side as they form trails, ^{and tunnels} in the juniper shavings, especially as they follow along edge of aquarium. Front feet are used but sometimes back.

Peromyscus leucopus searches for food by clearing surface with front feet.

Peromyscus & *M. ochrogaster* search hair of *Synaptomys* while resting at close quarters.

Both *Peromyscus* & *Reithro* interested in outlet screen on top of cage.

Both *Microtus* & *Synaptomys* use tail as prop while at drinking fountain; ^{Microtus on toes, Syn on feet.} All mammals participate at drinking tube at one time, together. *Microtus* & *Synaptomys* force each other away as well as the other kinds but *Pero* & *Reithro* do not show aggressiveness. *Pero* however can dominate, mainly with feet and with ears back. Use of water controlled by degree of dominance - ^{Microtus} *Syn* - *Pero* - *Reithro*. Tail also used as prop in *Pero* & *Reithro*.

All sleep together in one mass but *Pero* & *Reithro* last to be accepted. Sometimes there will be 2-3 layers of animals.

The *Blarina* when placed in cage plays havoc and will kill any animal it comes into contact. The rodents panic. When in separate cage it feeds on neonatal young of *Synaptomys*. Can consume either from front to rear or rear to front, moving the embryos from one side of the mouth to the other side for shearing the skin. Starts with eye, then brain and around ear. Regurgitates bone if caught in throat. Nose used to hold or inspect contents. Uses feet to hold & thrust against bite. Lower jaw for penetration. Cleans after eating by moving both feet towards nose. Builds nest and rests by ducking head under body and lies upright or slightly on one side. Can fall in this position when asleep.