

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## **EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT ON STEREOTYPED BEHAVIOR IN WEED PETS AT 21 DAYS OF AGE**

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Environmental enrichment is a tool that provides stimulus that allows the expression of natural behavior, providing wellness to the animal. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of using environmental enrichment, with the use of a wheelbarrow, pet bottle and ball toy, on the behavior of piglets weaned at 21 days of age. The research was conducted at the Federal Institute of Ceará campus Crato, from December 2016 to January 2017. A completely randomized experimental design was used, with weaning at 21 days of age. Consisting 4 treatments with repetitions distributed over time. Each bay housed 10 animals, 6 females and 4 males, totaling 40 animals. The treatments were defined in Treatment 1: without enriching object; Treatment 2: barrow tire; Treatment 3: pet bottle toy and Treatment 4: ball. The behavioral evaluations were performed by direct observation every 10 minutes (from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm) during the first 15 days after weaning, and thereafter were collected in 7 alternate days, totaling 22 days of collection. For the time spent with agonistic behavior, there was a statistical difference ( $P < 0.05$ ), in which Treatment 1 differed from Treatment 2 and Treatment 3. Considering that the animals in Treatment 1 did not receive enrichment, they allocated more time in behaviors agonists. However, when considering Treatment 4, it was found that even with the presence of the enriching object, there was no statistical difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) when compared with the other treatments. Regarding the Nosing and Biting behavior, it was verified no statistical difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) for these behaviors in any of the treatments studied. For the frequency of the agonistic behavior, it was observed that there was a statistical difference ( $P < 0.05$ ), in which Treatment 1 differed from Treatment 2 and Treatment 3. In view of the absence of enrichment the animals from Treatment 1, frequency for the behavior in aggressive interactions, with this, we can verify that even with the presence of objects the animals presented agonistic behaviors, being able to be interconnected to disputation by hierarchy within the social group. It was observed that the behaviors nosing and biting, did not present statistical difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) between treatments. Therefore, it is important that more studies are carried out aiming at improving the availability of enriching objects, trying to determine the best form and object for stimulus and reach of welfare, recommending the minimization of stereotyped behaviors.

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