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Brief Communications

Nature **410**, 35-36 (1 March 2001) | doi:10.1038/35065157

Frustrations of fur-farmed mink

Georgia J. Mason¹, Jonathan Cooper² & Catherine Clarebrough¹

Mink may thrive in captivity but they miss having water to romp about in.

Animals may suffer in captivity if they are strongly motivated to perform activities that their housing does not permit. Here we investigate to what extent these limitations affect caged mink and find that these animals will not only pay high costs to be able to perform a range of natural behaviours, but they will also release the 'stress' hormone cortisol when prevented from indulging in swimming, their favourite activity.

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