

## Introduction and Objectives

Cats exhibit a extortionary capability to social leaning and adaptations to their environment which often acquire them new skills due to their high seeking behaviors. Felines closely associated with dogs are influenced to behave as them (Jacob) This phenomenon is possible because of the model/rival technique. The model/rival technique is a technique that uses a model to demonstrate a behavior or tasks to the subject with both the model and rival receive a reward. This method is designed to leverage social learning, as the subject observed the model behavior and is motivated to do the same for a reward. The concept of using the model is to demonstrate the behavior and promote observational learning has been used across various of species. I aim to investigate the time it takes for the subject to complete it takes with and without the presence of the model. The hypothesis propose that with the presence of the model, the subject will demonstrate the task faster compared to when the model is absent. The null hypothesis suspect no time difference of the model presence. My prediction leans that subject will perform the command slower without the presence of the model.

## Methods

I will use the model/rival technique with my cat, Sriracha, to be the subject and my dog, Ghibli, to be the model. I will perform the task of sitting to both the model and the subject. Once I give the command to sit I will count the number of seconds it takes for the subject to perform the task with the presence of the dog and without the presence of the dog. When the command was perform then they would get a reward such as a treat.

## The Model and the Subject



The model for this project is Ghibli, a two year old male rottweiler. He knows the command sit and will immediately which is why he is a model. The subject is Siracha, a 6 month old rescued cat with no prior experience in training.

## Results

Time for cat to sit with and without the model

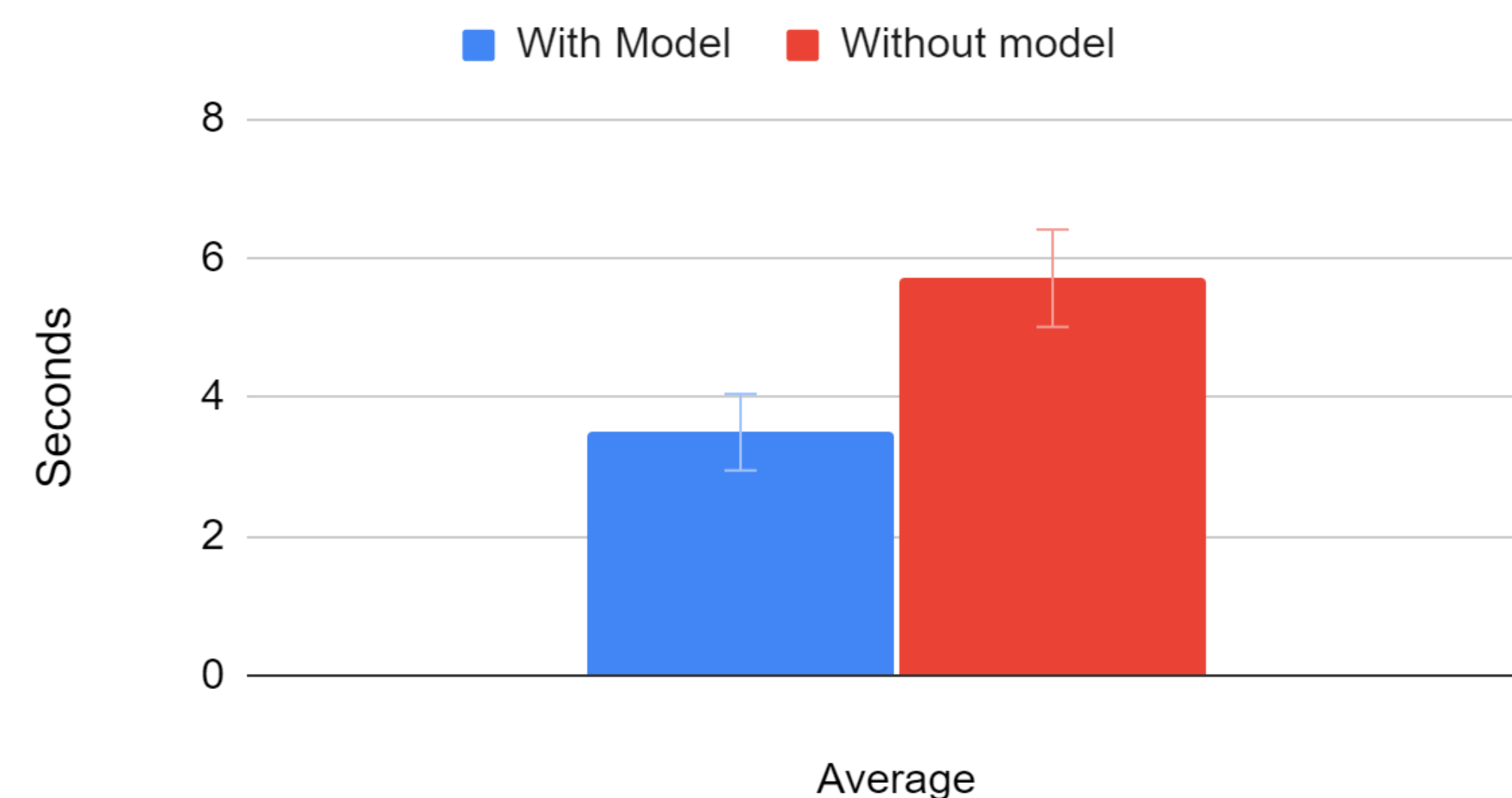


Figure 1. In this graph shows the average of seconds it took for the cat to complete the command sit with the dog and without the dog. With the dog it took 3.5 seconds and without the dog it took 5.17 seconds.

## Conclusions

Based on the results in this study, cats exhibits a faster task performance when exposed to the model. The hypothesis asserting the difference in task completion time between the absence and presence of the model was supported while the null hypothesis suggesting no time difference was rejected.

While doing the model/rival technique there were many observations that should be noted such as the model learned to be more patience when the subject was trying to sit. In addition, when the cat was commanded to sit without the presence of the dog, he started to meow very loudly until he sat down and waited for his reward. The research contribute insights into the social learning dynamics of cats emphasizing their adaptive behaviors influenced by their environments. Providing the essential environments for cat can potentially enhance their welfare and promote effective training methods. This creates a strong bond between cats and humans as the cat's abilities to learn quickly can be harnessed for positive behavioral development.

## Literature Cited & Acknowledgements

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