

# Starting point: animal performing an Abnormal Repetitive Behaviour (ARB)



Graphic by Dr Isabella Clegg (2019), based on Mason & Latham 2004 (Can't stop, won't stop: is stereotypy a reliable animal welfare indicator? Anim. Welfare 13, 57-69)

Contact: [isabella@animalwelfareexpertise.com](mailto:isabella@animalwelfareexpertise.com)



Animal Welfare Expertise

Can you see a relationship between ARB levels and other signs of welfare (good or bad?)



Does the animal show more signs of poor, or good, welfare?

Poor

**ARB is FRUSTRATION-RELATED** (eg. wall hit)

- If ARB is prevented, welfare is not decreased
- Variable in elements and bouts
- Form and context resembles natural behaviour



**ENRICHMENT: CAN REDUCE ARB IF TACKLES UNDERLYING MOTIVATION\***

Good

Can the animal attend to external stimuli while stereotyping?



**ARB is a DIY ENRICHMENT** (eg. regurgitation)

- If ARB is prevented, welfare decreases
- Variable in elements and bouts
- Form resembles natural behaviour



**ENRICHMENT: CAN REDUCE ARB IF TACKLES UNDERLYING MOTIVATION\***



Is the animal's behaviour normal when not performing ARB?



**ARB is driven by CENTRAL CONTROL** (eg. back-flipping)

- Elicited by many cues
- Elements and bouts are very predictable
- Not natural behaviour
- Attends to external stimuli during ARB



**RESISTANT TO ENRICHMENT: BUT WELFARE CAN STILL IMPROVE**



**ARB is driven by PERSEVERATION** (eg. water throwing)

- Elicited by few specific cues
- Elements are predictable, bouts variable
- May resemble natural behaviour



**RESISTANT TO ENRICHMENT: WELFARE DECREASE BEFORE IMPROVES**

**ARB driven by MANTRA EFFECTS** (eg. rocking)

- If ARB is prevented, welfare decreases
- Elements are predictable, bouts variable
- Does not resemble natural behaviour



**RANGE OF ENRICHMENT MAY REDUCE ARB, WELFARE NOT ALWAYS IMPROVED**

\*i.e. by being a better substitute than ARB in fulfilling the need.