

Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Lee

1) What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?

The most interesting part of the research presented was the ways in which animals interacted with humans in their environment. Often, human and animal interaction is limited outside of domesticated pets, so being able to view these interactions in a formal setting provides a unique perspective into these dynamics.

2) What did you learn from these resources about animal behavior?

Animals such as rodents are highly adaptable to the environment they live in, whether it be cities or the countryside. Humans share a close relationship, as the structures humans create and the food we consume are a perfect fit for rodents. These rodent populations are highly adaptable, as whether it's a megacity such as New York City or a field in upstate New York, we can witness rodent adaptation.

3) What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?

Anybody can do science and our traditional understanding of what constitutes science can be limiting and harmful. By incorporating non-traditional learning techniques, we can better share scientific ideas to more people and foster a more inclusive scientific community. Eliminating stigma and fear in science not only produces better outcomes within research fields, but can provide a new perspective on past research topics.

4) What new questions do you have about animal behavior after reviewing these resources?

In what ways can we limit the spread of zoonotic diseases without harming the health of animal populations within cities? How can we strive for environmental equity in a world with a larger population than ever before? With the advent of higher density living spaces, will rodent populations grow equally, or will they reach a carrying capacity? What are the potential side effects of the use of the term "pest" when referring to entire animal groups?