



# To Cache or Not to Cache?

Investigating Inhibitory Control in the North American Red Squirrel

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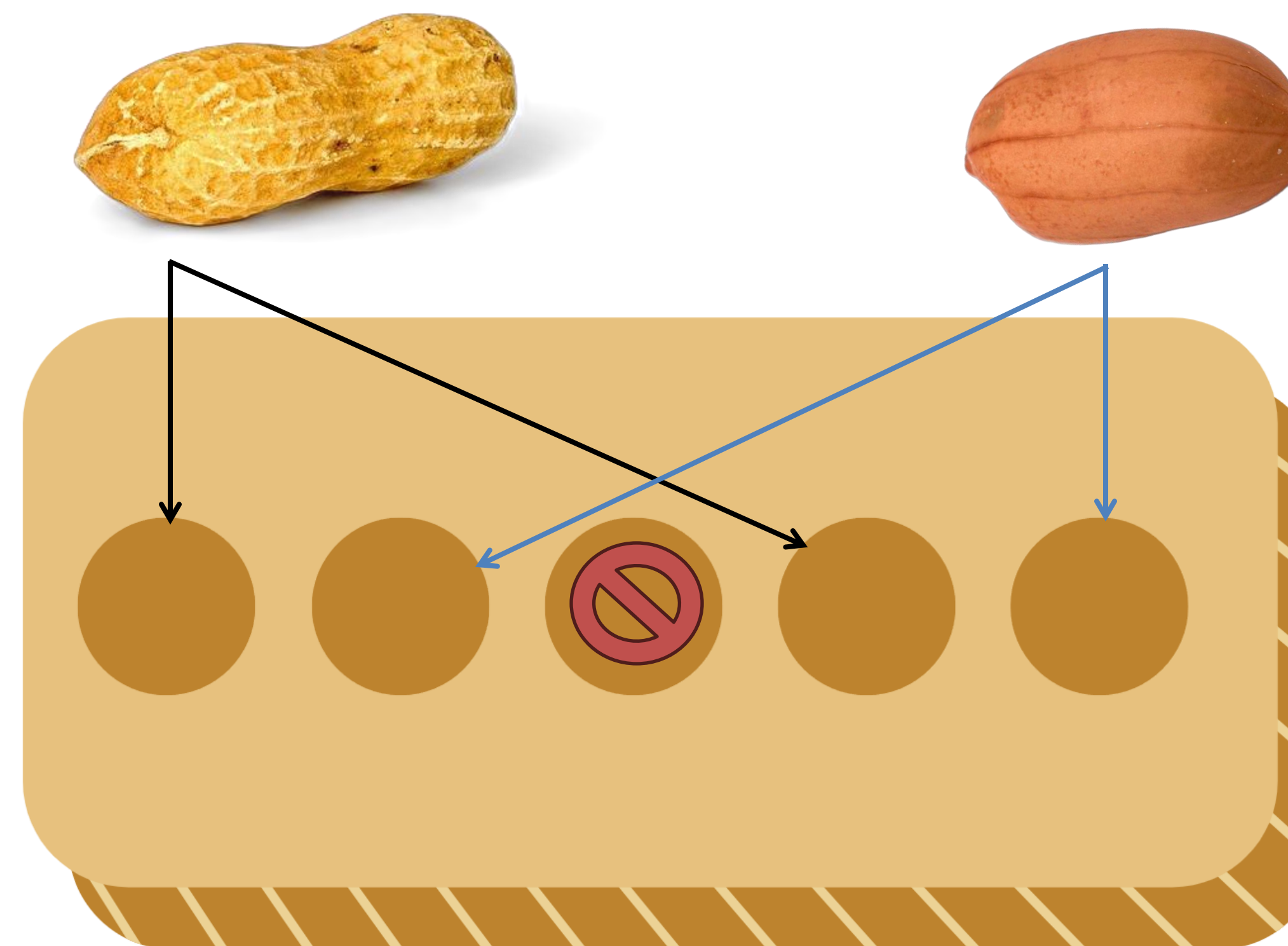
## Introduction

Inhibitory control is the cognitive ability to suppress automatic and innate responses. We will investigate inhibitory control through food selectivity task and post-selectivity behavior of caching.

## Methods

### Phase 1: Selectivity Task

This task will explore the selection of a preferred food item:



## Expected Results

We expect squirrels to practice self-control on prepotent behaviors in favor of caching the food exhibiting delayed gratification like behavior.

## Hypotheses

We predict that North American Red Squirrels will successfully inhibit immediate caloric intake and cache the nut for later consumption.

### Phase 2: Caching

Track the squirrel to confirm the caching of peanut.



Scan me



## Implications

The study aims to contribute pre-existing inhibitory control literature by expanding cognitive flexibility knowledge on North American Red Squirrels.

### References

Natalie Hempel de Ibarra, Pizza Ka Yee Chow, Stephen E. G. Lea, & Théo Robert. (2019). Inhibitory control and memory in the search process for a modified problem in grey squirrels, *Sciurus carolinensis*. *Animal Cognition*, 22, 645–655. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-019-01261-6>