

Aug 27, Sat, End of Day: I took them all out to wash their shells and their bins and left them with a little food overnight. Lights out at 8:30PM.

Sun, Aug 28: Woke up early to open the door and spray them, added some chalk to their bins so they don't get calcium deficient. I removed their carrots although none of them had eaten any. I will try to coax them with lettuce tomorrow. Lights on at 8:30AM.

Lights off 8PM, door closes at 8:30PM.

Mon, Aug 29:

This was a tough day, but a complete day. Door open at 8AM (overslept, curses), lights on at 8:30AM.

Let's start by explaining the environment. There is a lot of background noise. And a/c (I turned it off and realized that it had sorta covered the sound of the cars driving outside so turned it back on. The speakers also give off white noise under the intended sound. There is imperfect light. Instead of using the cell phone as planned before, I have opted for two stereo speakers that sit on the platform with the maze, pointed at a central part of the maze. I can feel the platform as well as the maze vibrate. You know those little jars that jam and honey come in at fancy places? Well, last time I was at a fancy place, I saved some of those jars. I don't know why. Just seemed like a sad thing to waste. And now they've come in handy because they cap the entrance and the "wrong" side perfectly. It gives me a chance to put them in something before they actually need to start too. Big learn of the day: I really, really need a video recorder or I am going to burn out. Today, I spent 9hrs and 15min with the snails, in session. And I had a bigillion other things to do today. Tough. I did figure out I could do a few things as some things were predictable, but it would be better to just let the video run for the 30 min the sound is playing and then I could review it in fast forward. Also, I am only giving them 30min to complete the maze. The ones that don't complete it in that time, don't seem like they're gonna. Backward Spiral cut it close, but he did it. After spending that much time, I also discovered that my hopes of testing them twice a day were delusional. As such, I will offer them food only once a day over the next week and see where they're at with their training.

This day was most of their first times in the maze so I didn't expect too much. It was definitely more tedious than I hoped for. 5 out of 13 snails completed the maze in 30 minutes. I observed a few of them who did not complete the maze 100% attempt to get out by sliming over the ridge at the top of the correct side but could not make it (I imagine because it's too sharp) and they didn't explore enough to try a different way. I'm considering making a way that this is easier for them because undoubtedly, a few more would have succeeded. I'm conflicted on whether I should count them as they clearly made it to the end and wanted to try, but I wanted them to get out. So, I'll figure out a way to make that a little easier for them to do it "their way" and let the data be the data.

The five snails that actually made it: Muscles, Isabella, Dr. Strange, Backward Spiral, and Trails. The ones who I think would have made it had they been able to go over the top: Yellow Belly, Big Yellow, Dr. Quinary.

Here are the details:

Offering - red lettuce

130hz, exit on the left side (right from the entrance) of the maze.

**\*Muscles** was sticking eir head out the correct side of the maze at 13 08, and e was fully out of the maze by 15 18. E ate a little but seemed more interested in exploring. I moved em and eir lettuce to a different part of the platform and I watched em do this for a while. E went back to explore the outside of the maze and began to climb on it. I pretty much think at this point that they're mostly exploring. Like, maybe they know that to the left arm is freedom and food, but they just gotta see what on the right first.

While in the maze, Muscles went straight to the fork and spent some time there looking (or whatever) around. Then, e chose the right side. We're still at 130hz at which the reward is on the left side (eir right). So, like the ones yesterday, e went right first. After e got to the end, e turned around then went back, almost all the way to the beginning, stopping short at going back into the glass cap. E turned around and this time went down the left arm and found the exit where e sat, head stretched out, looking around. Once e totally exited is when I moved eir and set em on eir food on another part of the platform. Like Yellow Belly yesterday, e only really scraped the food for a moment then went on with life.

**Abigail** was tested and did not make it out of the maze in 30min. I removed eir.

**\*Isabella** got to the correct end of the maze in 2 44. E has been looking around for minutes now... 8 min 54 seconds when e was fully out of the maze. I discovered that they want to go up and will take forever if there is nothing to stick to. So, I'm setting the 3rd cap next to the end with a piece of their food on the ground and a piece on the cap.

**Rogue** is being tested. E is doing what Abigail did. Neither of them would pass the lights from the speakers which makes me wonder if it has something to do with the lights. They're red. For several minutes, e's just been sitting there near the entrance. E doesn't look asleep. But e's just chilling there. E did not complete the maze, and did not venture past the lights in 30 min.

**\*Dr. Strange**, first explored the entrance cap, looking around, rather than going straight into the maze like the others. After ten minutes of this and eir looking like e was going back into eir shell for a sleep, I opened the cap and sprayed eir with some water. This got em up. E made his way to the fork and seemed to look in both sides at once, one tentacle in each. E moved over just to look in the left one, then sorta just sat there, "staring". Eventually, e went into the left one. E completed the maze at 21 min 36 sec

**Yellow Belly**, I didn't see the whole time to know if e went down the right and i saw eir head peak out... and then e started turning around!!!! I wonder if it's because I stepped over the maze and e thought i was a predator???? E circled 3 excruciatingly long times. Even after the 30 min was up, I waited. During one of the turns back, e stuck his tentacles out, but wouldn't leave. E did so well at first. Makes me crazy.

**\*Backward Spiral** is in the maze now. I lost about 30sec because me sine wave messed up before I got it back on track, starting from the beginning. 6 minutes has passed and e is still exploring the entrance cover and has not ventured into the maze proper.

As I did as I did with Dr. Strange and after 10 minutes, sprayed in the cap to get him going again. It worked although e didn't go straight for the maze.

At 15 08, e finally started to enter the maze proper. The speaker on the right side's light turned blue. Perhaps because it's fully charged? Regardless, I don't know what this will do to the snail. Yet another variable. Aaaahhhhhch!!! E got to the fork, now on the right side, and sat there. At 22 min, e decided to go down the left side instead of right. And on he goes. At 24 min, I can see the tips of eir eye tentacles peaking out. Then eir head. Like the others, e is inverted but I hope e takes advantage of the removed cap. E has a little over 5 min to figure it out. \*holds breath\* E is stretching out but hasn't gotten to the glass and is looking away. I'd be biting my nails if I didn't think it would distract em. So, I'm typing away, on the edge of my nonexistent seat (I'm on the floor!). This is outrageously intense. What will e do? If e doesn't come all the way out, how will I call it? Ahhhhh!!E doing it!!!! E is attaching to the glass. Under 2 minutes to go. You got this, Backward Spiral! You can do it!!!! 1.5 minutes. C'mon!!! Oh, e has this. Almost there.... Success! at 29 18!!!!

**Broken Shell** left into the maze straight away. This has the potential to be a very fast run.1 59 and e's already at the fork. E is on the left side but let's see... e is going in! Crossing my fingers that this isn't another Yellow Belly situation. And he switched to go to the other side. Just what I'd expect from eir. heh. E is just sliming around in the cap. The one speaker light switched back to red. Weird. And Broken Shell is just sitting there. And still. E is partially retracted eir tentacles. And e went back. Opened the cap and sprayed in to wake eir up. It woke eir up. E still doesn't seem particularly interested, but e is turning back to the maze. So much for eir going into the maze straight away earlier. At 21 23 seconds, I'm wondering if e will ever leave that cap. E looks out sometimes... but just doesn't take that first slime into the not-so-unknown maze. E is making circles. Ugh. Broken Shell appears to be going back to sleep again at 27 39 and Big Yellow is looking ready to go. Trying to decide if I should leave him for the next two minutes or give em another squirt.

Well, e woke up a little, but not in a meaningful way. E did not complete the maze.

**Big Yellow** has begun and is already heading into the maze. I won't be fooled this time though. Broken Shell taught me quite a lesson about being excited when a snail leaves right away. \*tear At 2 38 e has begun the entrance into the left side of the maze! Oh, what potential joy! I have three more subjects after this - Smotchkiss, Dr. Quinary (control), and Gary. Please oh please

Big Yellow, make it through quickly! 4 12 eir head peaks out! HeElooks around. 11 57 e still hasn't figured it out. Like so many, e came on top then tried to fold emself over the top and met with failure. E seems to be looking at the glass now but being indecisive. At 14 36, I realize e is retracted into sleep zone. I stayed water on em. And e starts going back the other way. What is this life?!?!?! I could weep. e's got over 13min though. Who knows. meanwhile, smotchkkiss is ready to go. I look forward to when I have a video camera that works so that I can record all this excitement rather than suffer through it. lol. \*tear. E looked like e might turn around again... but no. The one speaker's light turned blue at some point. I gotta figure that out. Either that, or find research that assures me that a color change wouldn't matter. ... Is e... is e... is e turning back around. Say it's so! E is turning back! Oh please oh please oh please make it! I have 3 more to test! And one of them is Dr. Quinary who we know is sloooooow. So please, please, save me from just a little agony. Like, 8 minutes. 8 minutes less of agony would be so sweet. 21 34. e pokes out eir head once more!!! May e get to the glass. Oh, may e get to the glass! Stop trying to fold over the top! You know you can't. None of you can! If you could, you and your friends would have already done it.

Oh for fuck's sake Big Yellow, just get on the glass already. Did I not wash it well enough that you want no part of it??? What the hell. E is trying to fold over again!!! None of your brethren could... please just get on the glass. Please? Please! E is at least inspecting the glass... for once. and... and, e's connected... and disconnected... I gotta wash it better next time. E just seems to not want to go on it. That makes me crazy. Oh no! Trying to fold over again. Just stop being crazy!!! Oh my god. Wtf. E is seeming to turn around again. BIG YELLOW!!! WHY?! WHY OH WHY?! I'll get back to the writing once e turns back the right way or this torture is done. The torture has ended. E did not complete the maze. WHAT?

**Smotchkkiss** is on now. At 42 seconds e entered the maze. If there is anyone! My first baby to come out of its shell. It must be you! Right? E makes it to the fork at 1 34. Which way will e go? It's looking like right... but e has an eye in each. Now looking more right.... now eye in both. Turning more left. Tough decisions, I know! What's this? Turning back toward the entrance? Yep.

I looked back at Yellow Belly in his bin. Now e is all awake.

Back to Smotchkkiss. I can't really see what e is doing. Other than sitting there. I can't imagine e'd go to sleep at a time like this! It looks like e might be turning around again, but I don't know. E might just be being indecisive. I've never seen eir be so slow. Well, e is still there, even after getting a spray, between the two speakers. E's got 10.5 min to go. Eir tentacles are out, which is the only thing giving me a lick of hope. But not much. Just realized I forgot Trails. Damn. 3 more after this. Maybe Trails remembers a bit. Smotchkkiss has not moved from between the speakers. Eir tentacles are still out, so I don't really know what's going on. Maybe e is stunned by the glorious sound of 130hz (plus all the background noise). Smotchkkiss did not complete the maze.

**Dr. Quinary** was a little awake when I got to em. I should have sprayed eir earlier to wake em up a little more. Alas, e is waking up anyway. I am not expecting much from this little guy as e is not particularly active. But, here goes. 7 24 e made it to the fork. Slow and steady. E chose left.

11 43 eir head made it out. like the rest, hatred to go up and over. Like the rest e failed. E started going back, the turned around. E started scraping the plastic which is not a thing i'd noticed the others do. E began turning around again and retracted. I sprayed em. This caused discouragingly little other than that e went back into the maze a bit. But then!!! C'mon little guy!!! Well, e turned around, but it seems to have just been to go to sleep. Bu tit almost seemed like e kept moving forward. I think it was my imagination but I'm just not sure... It's really hard to tell. NO, e is definitely moving forward! Ooh my science, is e going to make it? In 2 minutes? \*breathes heavily\* This is soooooo slow. I see eir tentacle peaking out. E is trying !You have less than a minute!!!! E stopped. Ahhhh. So close! I'm giving em 5 more minutes. E is just so close... But seems to have gone back to sleep. Fuck it. E didn't make it. :(

**\*Trails** is heading into the maze proper, right away, like last time. Let's see how e likes the new setup. At 2 40, e made it to the fork. E seems to be going left. Oh please! 8 21head poking out. E grabs glass. 11 36 hee makes it!!!!

**Gary** up! Last one to go!!! E went straight (albeit slowly - e just woke up and didn't really get to stretch before I put em in) into the maze. E has been sitting at the place right before the lights for quite some time and now it appears that e is finally decided to... go back toward the entrance. E is at 17 26. Not looking so good, Gary. E turned back around and then seemed to go to sleep. I get em a spray and e has started to wake up again. Possibly saying, "oh man, mom, do I really gotta get up?" Yes, Gary, yes you do. 4.5min to go. Gary did not complete the maze. E fell back asleep.

Well, that was a tough day of training.