

Sun Sept 4

130, left side exit, cucumber reward

Yesterday, they had their day off (and me too! It was glorious). All of them were sleeping soundly when I opened the door. After spraying water on them, they started to liven up.

**\*Rogue** - Once again, I'm testing em first to see if e surprises me again. If no, then retired. If yes, then e continues on. E takes a couple minutes to enter the maze, but e does, then goes to the top and begins heading down the maze. E gets to the fork then sits there. Then retracts, with just the littlest bit of tentacle out. With those tentacles, however, e seems to be sensing back and forth which makes me wonder if e still has intent to go somewhere. After a few minutes, e becomes more active. E slimes into the fork and seems to look both ways before e eventually chooses the correct side. But, e does not commit and before fully entering, comes back out. Then, goes in again and goes toward the bottom. E has 4 minutes left but is coming down the tube.... at 27 30.... peaks out head.... is inspecting glass... 28 20.. attaches to glass.... 2900... almost.... 29 44 Rogue makes it!!!! I don't love how long it's taking eir to finish the maze, but it does seem like e is starting to get it. I'll continue to test em first in the morning and hopefully eir behavior will continue or even improve.

*I check in on the others and both Big Yellow and Dr. Strange appear to be focusing on shell cleaning. I've decided to look it up. Finally.*

**\*Smotchkiss** - E has been quite lively this morning. E goes out right away and to the top of the maze and heads down toward the fork. Within 2 min, e arrives at the fork, but dilly dallies. E teases by starting to go in the correct side but then changes course and then goes to the wrong side. E goes into the cap of the wrong side. heads back down toward the fork. It's possible that e is just exploring. This is problematic to me because in the test, this would possibly be a false negative. One of the times e completed the maze, e showed this behavior as well. This is problematic. Once back at the fork, e seems to linger there. Peaks out head at 15 02. E is trying to fold over the top and I forgot to put the rock over there. I'm not sure what to do. There is a lot of tape so I wonder if e will make it anyway. It appears that e will as eir shell is rounding out. E completes the maze at 20 43.

**-Backward Spiral** - E goes to the top of the cap. E lingers there. E was very active before I put em in here so I don't think it has anything to do with grogginess. 9 min and e is still in the cap, not retracted, just there. I feel really unhappy for BSpiral. E just hasn't been the same since the commotion on Thursday. If e does not change that behavior today though, that's three days in a row and that's removal time. I don't know what to make of this situation. I think Backward Spiral had the makings of a great test subject. I think that after the experiment, I'll keep em as well as the other good performers and see if e can work well with different tests (or the same test, just done differently). At 14 11, e has still neither moved nor retracted. When e retracts for a little while, I spray em. E moves some but not much. E goes back further into the cap. It has been

over 20 minutes now. I will give em a few more minutes but then it will be passed the point where B Spiral is fast enough to get to the end. I don't really think that e is interested in the end anymore. E seems to be turning around. If e goes into the maze, I will be excited! E is looking in the maze. If she goes in, part of me wants to let em go passed time to acclimate to the maze and see if performance improves. E continues to stare. Backward Spiral does not complete the maze. I retired em to the aquarium. I could cry.

**Muscles** - E does not hesitate to enter the maze and go to the top. Within 3 min, his at the fork. E considers the wrong way. Then e considers the correct way. Then, e sits there with in eyes in each, then looks the wrong way again. What are ya doing to me, Muscles? E begins down the wrong way. What. I can remember if e has done this before. I hope e doesn't do a Smotchkkiss because I would find that very confusing. But, of course e does. Why not? Smotchkkiss did. Oy. E seem stop be sniffing at something, but I'm not sure what. Whatever the case, e heads back toward the fork. If e exits, this would be another confusing result in the actual test. yikes. Then, Muscles goes back into the cap?! These snails just won't cut me a break! At 15 56, e is still playing around in there. Not a fan. 19 00, still. E keeps traveling in circles, it seems. Maybe e is going insane. 22 00 and still with the circles. Maybe e is following eir own mucus trail at this point? 27 00 and still. Muscles does not complete the maze.

**\*Isabella** - E goes straight to the top, then down, but then enters the maze on the side and goes to the top in there. Then, e goes straight down to the fork. E has spend quite a bit of time there. E is currently looking the correct direction but has just to venture there. After several minutes, e begins moving down the correct direction. Eir head peaks out 12 47. Eir body stretches out as e "looks" around. E eventually attaches to the glass. Isabella completes the maze at 16 08.

**Dr. Quinary** - E heads into the maze right away and along the wrong side. Then, e heads toward the top and to the fork. E starts to go down the correct way, then seems to think about it and lingers between the two sides. E begins to go down the wrong side. About half way down, e turns around and explores the fork. Then, e seems to sit at the end of the wrong side. Just sit there. E went back into the fork and seems to be heading back toward the entrance. \*sigh. E doesn't seem to head that way too long though. E turns around and starts going into the wrong side again. E starts going back to the beginning. Then, what's this, e turns around and might just be going the correct direction. Might. Nope. E goes back into the wrong way. \*rips at hair. E starts to peak eir head into the cap of the wrong side. What is with these guys today? Maybe I shouldn't have given them a break yesterday. :( It's 24min in and there e is, sliming around the wrong side. AAAHHHHH. I try to remember how quick Dr. Quinary is to determine how much time I should leave em to try. The time is now at 25min. I really don't think e could do it in 5 minutes. But, I'll give em another to get out of that cap and see. Dr. Quinary does not complete the maze.

**\*Big Yellow** - enters the maze and goes to the top. E heads down toward the fork on the wrong side, then straightens before reaching it. Then, e starts turning around to go back toward the entrance. Not sure what to make of all this. I have two more to test. These guys have been

taking a really long time. It's already 10:27a. Not good as I don't want to keep testing after 11a. Big Yellow needs to get on it. E does. I can see eir tentacles going toward the fork. E is on the wrong side though. I hope e course corrects. E doesn't, at least not yet. E heads into the wrong side. E is heading into the cap of the wrong side. E is completely in the cap. What are they doing today?!?!?! Whatever it is, it's making me crazy and is confusing. E begins to head out of the cap. Big Yellow is chilling in the tube of the wrong side. E has been retracting. At 15min, I give em a spray. So far, that seems somewhat effective. Eir tentacles extend way out. E begins to move toward the fork. E has been hanging out at the fork, seeming to start to go the correct direction, then seeming to go back the wrong way, and now e is heading toward the entrance. E turns around and now is in the fork and.... and.... and... e starts in the correct direction. E continues that way... and eir head peaks out at 23 46. E stretches out long "looking" around. E attaches to the glass and fully exits the maze at 27 25.

**\*Dr. Strange** - E is mostly awake when I pull em out. I give em a moment to fully wake up. E goes straight to the top of the cap and more into the cap. E soon turns around and enters the maze. E is slow moving today and starts down the wrong side of the maze. E is more at the center when e reaches the fork. E seems to consider eir options. E begins to enter the correct side of the maze. E is fully in the correct side of the maze, slowly heading toward the finish. Eir head peaks out at 9 39. E stretches out. E finds and attaches to the glass. E fully exits the maze at 12 24.

**\*Trails** - E goes into the maze and to the top. Oddly, begins to turn back to the exit. E ends up making a circle then heads further down the fork on the wrong side. E starts to go more down the middle though by the time e gets to the fork. E goes into the fork then into the correct side. Trails is not quick today but continues down the correct path. At 7 40 e peaks out eir head. E finds and eventually attaches to the glass. At 9 44 Trails fully exits the maze!

*So far, Dr. Strange, Trails, Isabella, and Big Yellow have completed the maze 5 out of 6 times so far. Pretty cool.*