

**Sarah Reed**

Junior Division Animal Sciences

*Supersize Me! The Effect Of Junk Food On Mice*

My experiment was testing whether the amount of "junk food" in a diet would affect the behavior, learning capabilities and exercise endurance of white mice. My hypothesis was that the mice eating the most "junk food" would have changes in behavior and a harder time learning the maze and running for extended periods of time. The project tested behavior by means of a daily checklist, which would be filled in three times a day. Learning abilities were tested by timing the mice through a maze every week. Exercise endurance tests were executed by placing the mice through an exercise ball on a track and timing the laps made in two minutes. Hypothetically, the mice would run as long as they could; however, the ball was too heavy so I didn't collect accurate results. After experimentation, I ran my data through graphs and received surprising results. One of the mice eating a complete "junk food" diet performed as my hypothesis expected. The other two in the cage refused to eat the "junk food" and starved. This was extremely interesting because the mice reacted similarly to humans, each with a personality. The mice eating half "junk food" were interesting because they became hyper and were exercising constantly. This experiment supports the idea that "junk food" is horrible for students, because of their need to learn, and for anyone eating it constantly. The results of this experiment were interesting for me because I wanted to know if "junk food" is really terrible for the body.