The effects of delay on an established response.
Williams, Jon L; Ellis, John A.

AB Investigated the effect of varying length of delay on an established response as a function of similarity between the delay box and goal box. 32 hooded rats were reinforced with sucrose for running a V-shaped alley. During testing Ss were delayed in the maze for 5, 20, 45, and 90 sec. Each S served as its own control and received all of the delay conditions. Ss were divided into 2 groups, 1 which was delayed in a chamber similar to the goal box and 1 which was delayed in a dissimilar chamber. Contrary to the original hypothesis that Ss would start and run faster as a function of length of delay, they ran slower as a function of length of delay. Furthermore, the groups did not differ significantly. It is concluded that the delay situation was novel and elicited responses incompatible with running which therefore precluded the behavioral effects of frustration.