

of an interbout interval of at least 5 min before a separate bout could occur. The vagotomized rats drank less than controls during the night, but more during the day. The vagotomized animals also had fewer drinking bouts during the night, but more than control rats during the day. Bout

size was comparable for the 2 groups. On the basis of data collected in this laboratory, this drinkometer system has been found to provide a sensitive method of continuously monitoring drinking while avoiding the difficulties inherent in alternative systems.

- 1 The authors gratefully acknowledge the technical assistance of Mr C. Friedinger, Mr V. Studer and Mr J. Wespi. This research was supported by a grant from the Swiss Association of Cigarette Manufacturers to K. Bättig and a predoctoral fellowship from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology to W. Classen.
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