

# A Milk Tale

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three weeks weigh-in, Tails, the control rat being fed milk, outweighed and outmeasured Snowball, the treatment rat. A switch

took place for the fourth week, during which Snowball was given milk while Tails sipped the sugar water.

"The control rat (Tails) grew better, with the most strongly

developed nails," observed student Debbie Bering as the class gathered for the great weigh-in at the four-week conclusion of the project.

Her team partner in the study effort, Courtney Avery, agreed. "Tails is stronger. When you pull

a little on her leg, you can feel that the muscles are stronger. The treatment rat, Snowball, didn't grow as well. We think it's because of the better nutrients."

During the weekly weighing days, class members worked together to carefully weigh and measure the tails of their wiggly study projects. Every student in turn held and petted the rats to check the quality of their coats and their muscle strength. They soon discovered that milk-fed Tails left

pronounced scratches on their hands, with stronger, sharper toenails than sugar-fed Snowball. And Tails had a consistently longer tail, an indication of growth and health in rats.

Debbie and Courtney noted another difference.

"The one getting all the sugar was more active than the one we fed milk to," they agreed, adding that they thought the sugar caused Snowball to be less calm than

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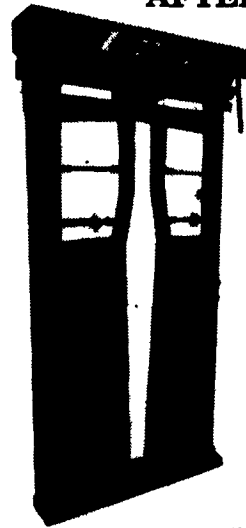
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