

Rogelio Rodriguez Lopez
Bristol Veterinary School
Bristol Doctoral College
Email: rr13260@bristol.ac.uk



Research interests

My research is focused on studying the behaviour of wildlife in captivity and providing enrichment opportunities that promote the expression of natural behaviours and engage animals with their surroundings. I am interested in the concept of "challenges" as an enrichment method.

I am working with a very explorative parrot species: the New Zealand kea (*Nestor notabilis*). These birds are known for their inquisitive behaviour and absence of fear responses, common trait of many parrots. Kea are known to exhibit abnormal behaviours when housed in captivity.

For my masters dissertation I did an analysis of the behavioural effects of novel enrichment, designed by me, compared against the enrichment rota provided by zookeepers. My conclusions showed a significant decrease in abnormal behaviours when the novel devices were implemented. My current research is focused on whether kea prefer to work for their food (contrafreeloading) and preferences of physical and cognitive enrichment.

Research output

Vocal Conditioning in Kea Parrots (*Nestor notabilis*).

Wein, A., Schwing, R., Hausberger, M., Rodriguez Lopez, R. & Huber, L., 28 Dec 2017, In : Journal of Comparative Psychology.

Is the T-maze an appropriate tool to measure parrot behaviour?

Rodriguez Lopez, R., Held, S., Mendl, M., Schwing, R. & Huber, L., 2017, (Unpublished).

"Where's Waldo?" for kea: preference for cognitive enrichment difficulty

Rodriguez Lopez, R., Held, S., Mendl, M., Schwing, R. & Huber, L., 2017, (Unpublished).

Environmental enrichment for parrot species: Are we squawking up the wrong tree?

Rodríguez-López, R., Jul 2016, In : Applied Animal Behaviour Science. 180, p. 1-10 10 p.

Keeping kea entertained: a survey of current enrichment practices

Rodriguez Lopez, R., Kennedy, A., Mendl, M., Dow, S. & Held, S., 28 May 2016, (Unpublished) p. 16. 21 p.