

How do cats deal with being weightless?

February 4 2015, by Nancy Atkinson



Screenshot from the “I Can Has Gravity” video.

Since my previous post was about dogs, its time to give equal time to the cats ... although I'm guessing the cat lovers of the world won't have a great reaction to this one. Here's some footage from some the Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories which include a test of the effects of weightlessness on cats in a C-131 "vomit comet" that simulates weightlessness. Best I can tell, this research was done in 1947. Think of it in the same vein as all those weird tests the early astronauts had to endure.

The text from the video: "In these experiments you can see the disorientation resulting when an animal is suddenly placed in a weightless state. Cats when dropped under normal conditions will invariably rotate their bodies longitudinally in midair and land on their feet. This automatic reflex action is almost completely lost under [weightlessness](#)."

The research was conducted by Bioastronautics Research, part of the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

Amy Shira Teitel has a [great post](#) about the early medical tests on [astronauts](#): As she wrote, "The Mercury astronauts only half joked during a 1959 press conference that the doctors had probed every orifice the human male has to offer, and then some, all in the name of 'science'."

Source: [Universe Today](#)

Citation: How do cats deal with being weightless? (2015, February 4) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-02-cats-weightless.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--