

BALANCE



The groups of animals being compared should be assessed and treated the same by making sure no one interacting with the animals knows which treatment they received. This is called blinding or masking.

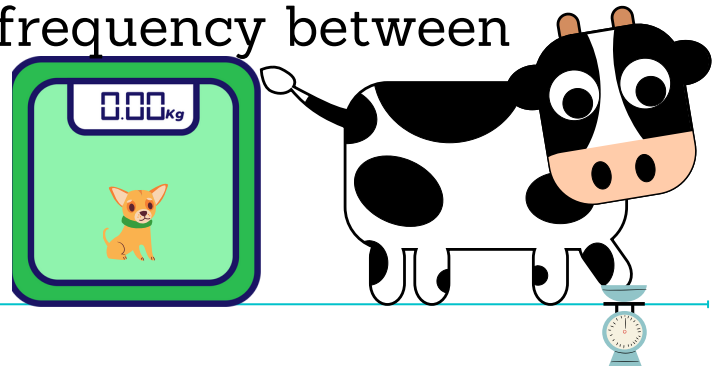
In methods, do they describe how they blinded (or masked) the outcome assessors and even the animal caretakers?

 Yes

- The reader can assess whether the comparison groups were assessed "equally" (with the same intensity and method).

 No

- Bias is a concern for subjective outcomes when it's known who received the desired intervention.
- Bias is a concern for objective outcomes when they're evaluated differently (different equipment or test or frequency between groups).



Blinding allows imperfect, subjective measures ("is it getting better?") to serve as valid study outcomes.