**Troubleshooting**

1) The animal is reluctant to enter the walkway and sits in front of the entrance, sniffing or exploring the surrounding environment with its whiskers.

Move out of the animal’s field of vision, or if this is impossible due to space restriction, move as far away from the animal as possible. Also avoid any distracting or intimidating auditory stimuli or rapid movements. Some animals require several minutes to calm down and acclimate to the new surroundings before they eventually enter the walkway.

2) The animal is reluctant to cross the walkway without hesitation or stops and turns during data acquisition.

Return the animal to its homecage and let it rest for at least 10 min. If it is still reluctant to cross the walkway afterwards, it is often more purposeful to postpone the data acquisition procedure to the following day. It is also recommended to commence an additional training period of 3–5 days to increase the animal’s compliance with the procedure.

3) The recorded paw prints are blurred, or their intensity is unusually high.

Double check whether on the one hand the walkway is dry and properly cleaned as well as on the other hand whether the animal’s paws are dry and not contaminated by its urine or other liquids.

4) The recorded paw prints are only partially visible.

Readjust the camera settings. Move the camera closer to the walkway to increase the resolution. Focus the camera using the calibration sheet provided with the AGA device.

NOTE: Adjustment of camera settings should never be performed during the course of an ongoing experiment as this will result in impaired comparability of data recorded prior to and after these adjustments. Always make sure to adjust the camera properly before commencing a new experiment. In case the camera is manipulated during the course of the experiment correct this and always make a note to report this in the published work.

5) The animal is reluctant to leave the walkway and enter its homecage.

Move out of the animal’s field of vision or at least as far away as possible as some animals might get intimated by the experimenter lunging at them to return them to their homecage. Other animals might tolerate the experimenter well but are afraid to enter their homecage. This animal can be trained to do so by offering them to enter the tube used as cage enrichment. The animals can then be transferred inside their homecage via the tube.

NOTE: Make sure to maintain a firm grip on the tube when the rodent enters it, as any shaking might discourage the animals to remain inside the tube.