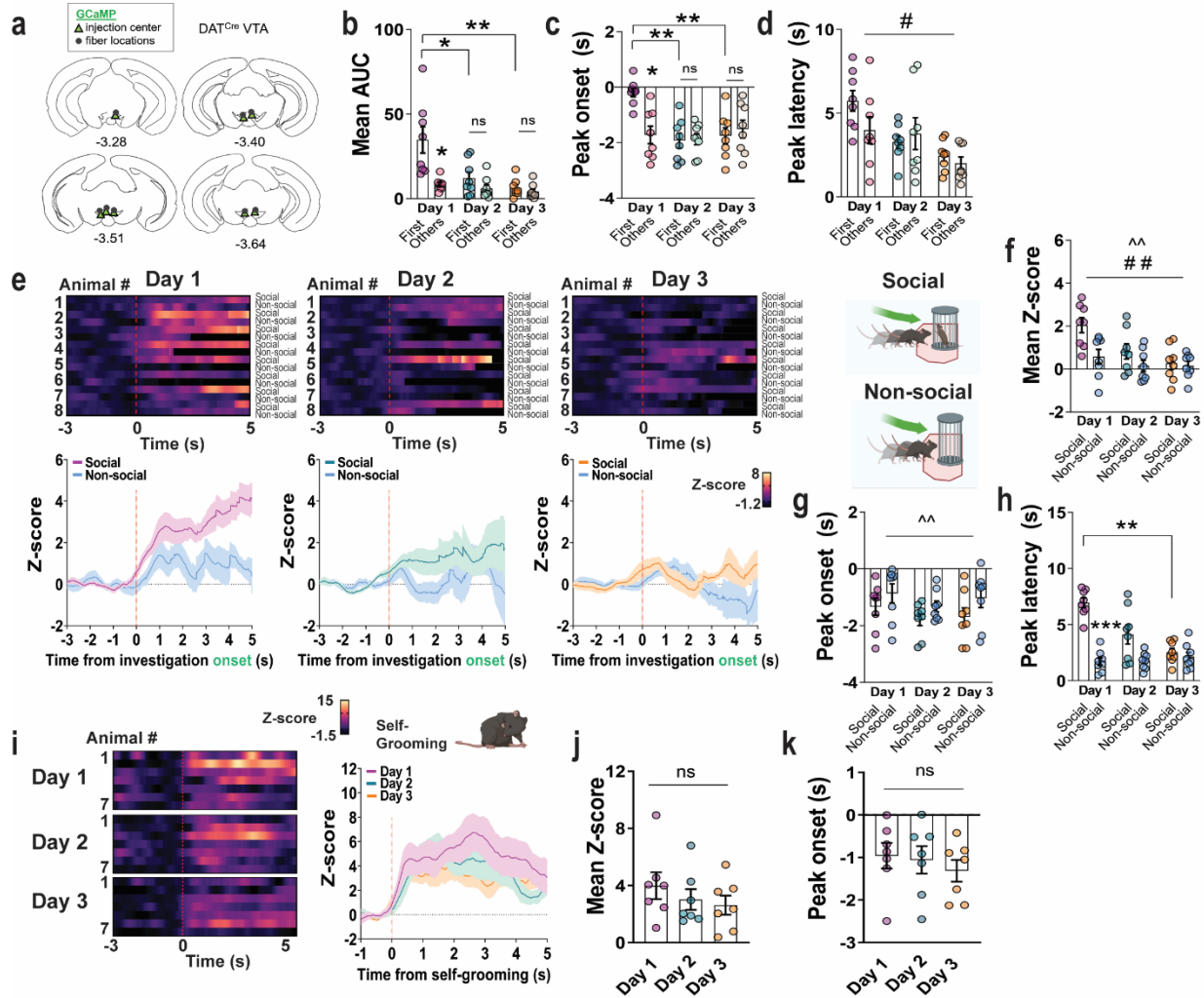


Dopamine control of social novelty preference is constrained by an interpeduncular-tegmentum circuit.

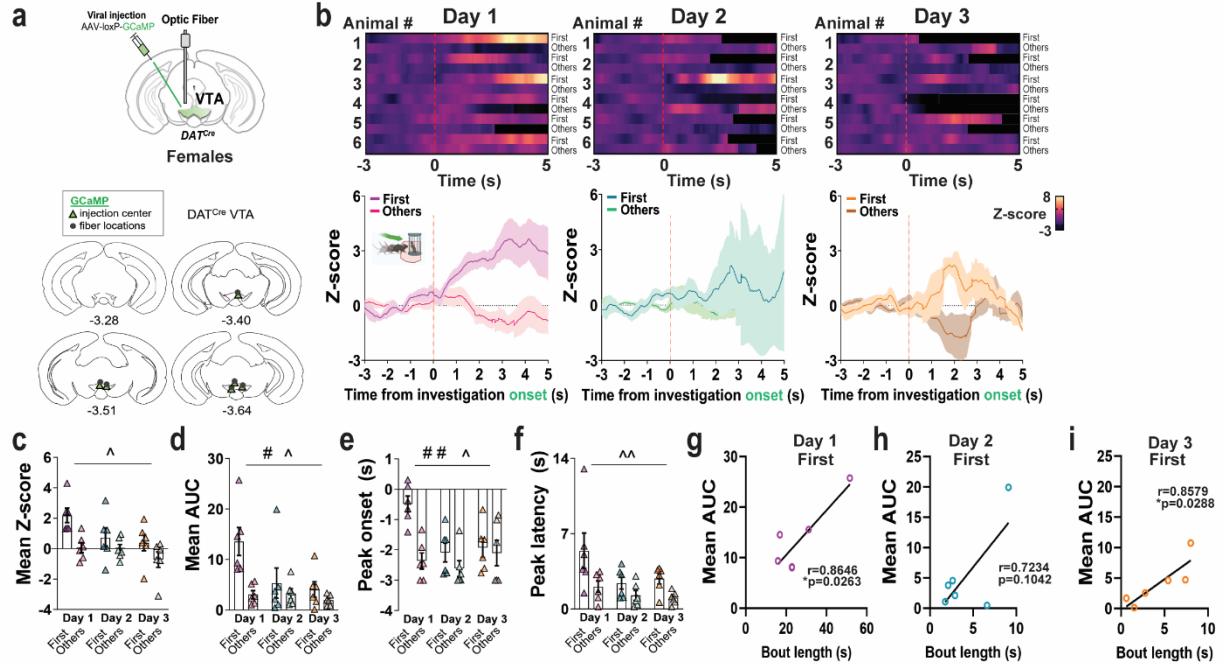
Supplementary Information:

Supplementary Figures 1-9



Supplementary Figure 1. VTA DAergic neuronal activity encodes social novelty. (a) Fiber placements from VTA DAT^{Cre} recorded animals used in Fig. 1b-h and Fig. 3e-f (n=8 male mice). (b) Quantification of activity responses in (Fig. 1d) as mean AUC. Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,14)}=10.74$, $P=0.0058$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=7.299$, $P=0.0306$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=12.19$, $P=0.0031$). (c) Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (Fig. 1d). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,14)}=6.451$, $P=0.0172$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=3.121$, $P=0.1206$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=5.280$, $P=0.0214$). (d) Peak latency (s) of activity responses in (Fig. 1d). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,14)}=7.110$, $P=0.0158$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=1.442$, $P=0.2688$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=1.493$, $P=0.2617$). (e) Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked VTA DAergic activity recordings relative to the onset of investigations (red line) to the social and non-social cylinders on Days 1 to 3. Mouse illustration made with Biorender. (f) Quantification of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main

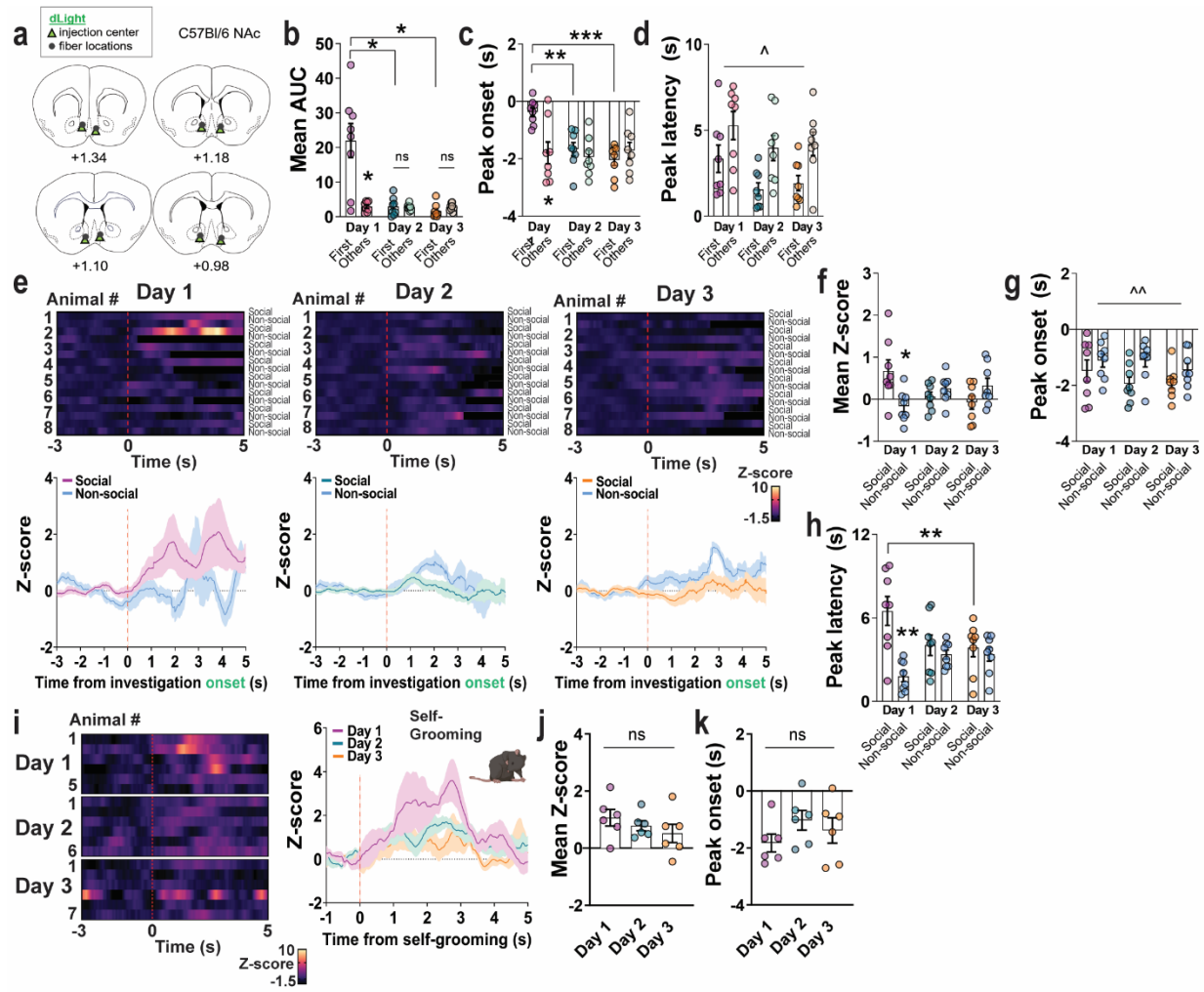
effect: $F_{(1,14)}=11.79$, $P=0.0040$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=6.276$, $P=0.0085$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=2.250$, $P=0.1241$). **(g)** Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main effect: $F_{(1,14)}=9.959$, $P=0.007$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=1.003$, $P=0.3699$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=0.0710$, $P=0.9316$). **(h)** Peak latency (s) of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main effect: $F_{(1,14)}=39.88$, $P<0.0001$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=10.04$, $P=0.0013$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=14.28$, $P<0.0001$). **(i)** Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked VTA DAergic activity recordings relative to the onset of self-grooming events (red line) during the social test on Days 1 to 3. Mouse illustration made with Biorender. **(j)** Quantification of activity responses in (i). One-way RM ANOVA ($F_{(2,12)}=0.8147$, $P=0.4398$). **(k)** Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (i). One-way RM ANOVA ($F_{(2,12)}=0.4445$, $P=0.5818$). Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Two-way RM ANOVA $^{\wedge}p<0.01$, $\#p<0.05$, $\#\#p<0.01$. Šidák's multiple comparisons $*p<0.05$, $**p<0.01$, $***p<0.001$. represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Two-way RM ANOVA $^{\wedge}p<0.01$, $\#p<0.05$, $\#\#p<0.01$. Šidák's multiple comparisons $*p<0.05$, $**p<0.01$, $***p<0.001$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Figure 2. Social novelty increases VTA DAergic neuronal activity in female mice.

(a) Schematic of the viral injection and recording strategy used in *DAT^{Cre}* female mice (top) and fiber placements from VTA *DAT^{Cre}* recorded females (n = 6 mice) (bottom). (b) Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked VTA DAergic activity recordings relative to the time initiating a social investigation (red line) on Days 1 to 3 of the social test. The first social investigation is compared to the subsequent ones. Mouse illustration made with Biorender. Quantification of activity responses in (b) as (c) mean z-score, Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,10)}=4.656$, $P=0.0652$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,5)}=9.548$, $P=0.0272$; interaction: $F_{(2,10)}=1.528$, $P=0.2673$) and (d) mean AUC, Two-way RM ANOVA ($F_{(2,10)}=5.285$, $P=0.0280$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,5)}=9.878$, $P=0.0256$; interaction: $F_{(2,10)}=3.381$, $P=0.0772$). (e) Peak onset (s) of activity, two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,10)}=11.23$, $P=0.0056$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,5)}=7.371$, $P=0.0420$; interaction: $F_{(2,10)}=2.833$, $P=0.1191$). (f) Peak latency (s) of activity responses, two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,10)}=2.727$, $P=0.1551$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,5)}=46.81$, $P=0.0010$; interaction: $F_{(2,10)}=0.8800$, $P=0.4213$). Correlation between the bout length duration (s) of social investigations and the mean area under the curve (AUC) of the first VTA GCaMP signal on (g) Day 1, Two-tailed Pearson r ($r=0.8646$, $R^2=0.7474$, $p=0.0263$), (h) Day 2, Two-tailed Pearson r ($r=0.7234$, $R^2=0.5233$, $p=0.1042$), and (i) Day 3, Two-tailed Pearson r ($r=0.8579$, $R^2=0.7360$, $p=0.0288$) of the social paradigm. Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Two-way

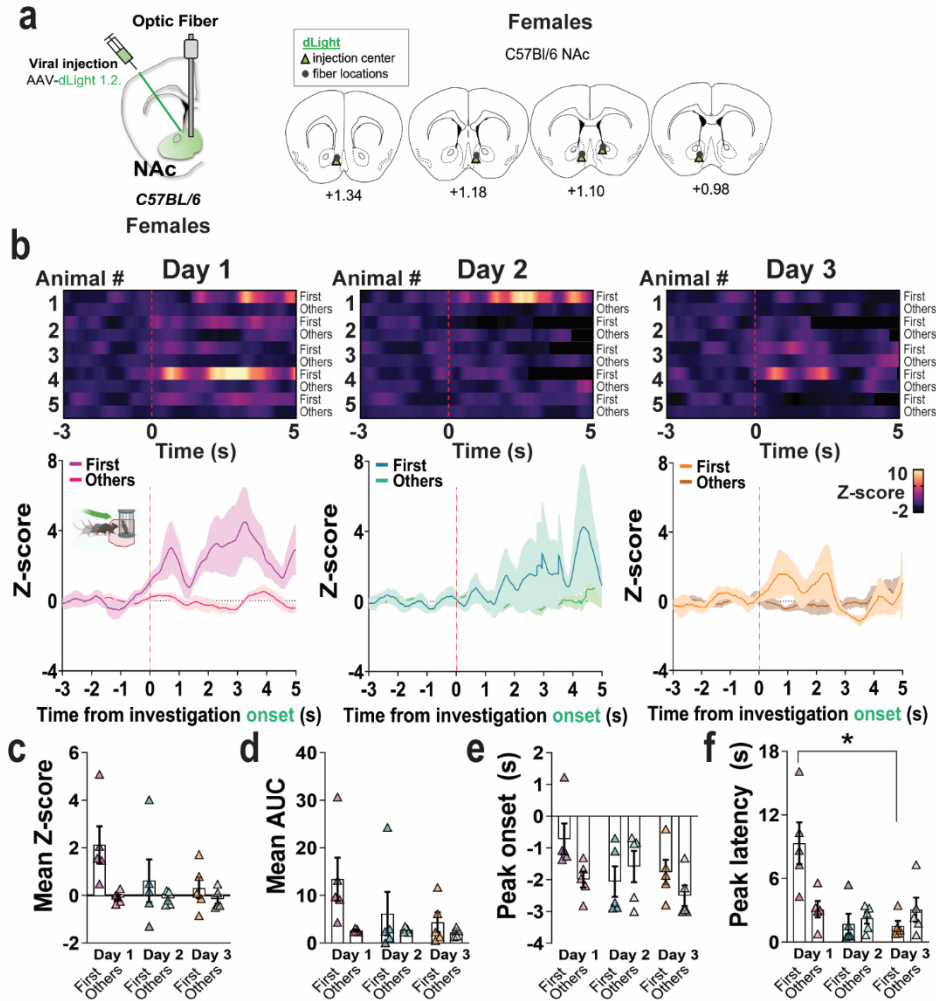
RM ANOVA ^ $p < 0.05$, ^^ $p < 0.01$, # $p < 0.05$, ## $p < 0.01$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Figure 3. NAc DA activity responds to social novelty and self-grooming.

(a) Schematic of fiber placements from the recorded dLight 1.2. NAc C57BL/6 animals used in Fig. 2c-g ($n=8$ male mice). (b) Quantification of activity responses in (Fig. 2c) as mean AUC. Two-way RM ANOVA $F_{(2,14)}=13.87$, $P=0.0060$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=12.96$, $P=0.0087$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=14.34$, $P=0.0052$. (c) Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (Fig. 2c). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,14)}=6.804$, $P=0.0313$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=3.577$, $P=0.1005$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=8.671$, $P=0.0041$). (d) Peak latency (s) of activity responses in (Fig. 2c). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,14)}=3.086$, $P=0.0970$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,7)}=9.404$, $P=0.0182$; interaction: $F_{(2,14)}=0.1056$, $P=0.8980$). (e) Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked NAc DA signals relative to the onset of investigations (red line) to the social and non-social cylinders on Days 1 to 3 of the social test. (f) Quantification of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main effect: $F_{(1,14)}=0.9053$,

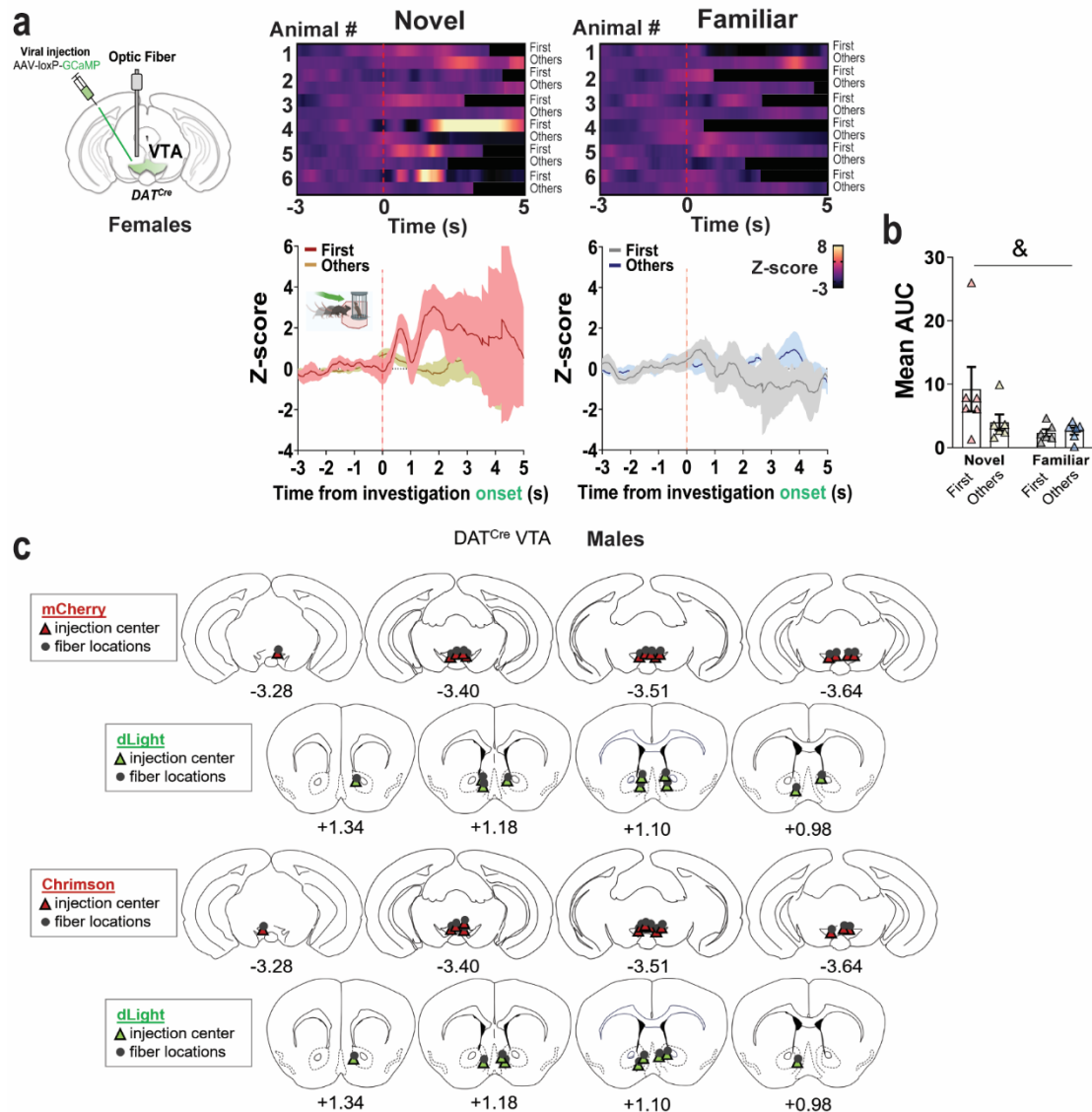
$P=0.3575$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=0.2588$, $P=0.7562$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=6.162$, $P=0.0061$). **(g)** Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main effect: $F_{(1,14)}=11.88$, $P=0.0039$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=0.8863$, $P=0.4226$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=0.3963$, $P=0.6765$). **(h)** Peak latency (s) of activity responses in (e). Two-way RM ANOVA (social vs non-social main effect: $F_{(1,14)}=6.469$, $P=0.0234$; time main effect: $F_{(2,28)}=0.8072$, $P=0.4342$; interaction: $F_{(2,28)}=14.16$, $P<0.0001$). **(i)** Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked NAc DA signals relative to the onset of self-grooming events (red line) during the social test on Days 1 to 3. Mouse illustration made with Biorender. **(j)** Quantification of activity responses in (i). One-way RM ANOVA ($F_{(2,10)}=0.7499$, $P=0.4746$). **(k)** Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (i). One-way RM ANOVA ($F_{(2,10)}=1.172$, $P=0.3484$). Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Two-way RM ANOVA $^{\wedge}p<0.05$, $^{\wedge\wedge}p<0.01$. Šidák's multiple comparisons $*p<0.05$, $**p<0.01$, $***p<0.001$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



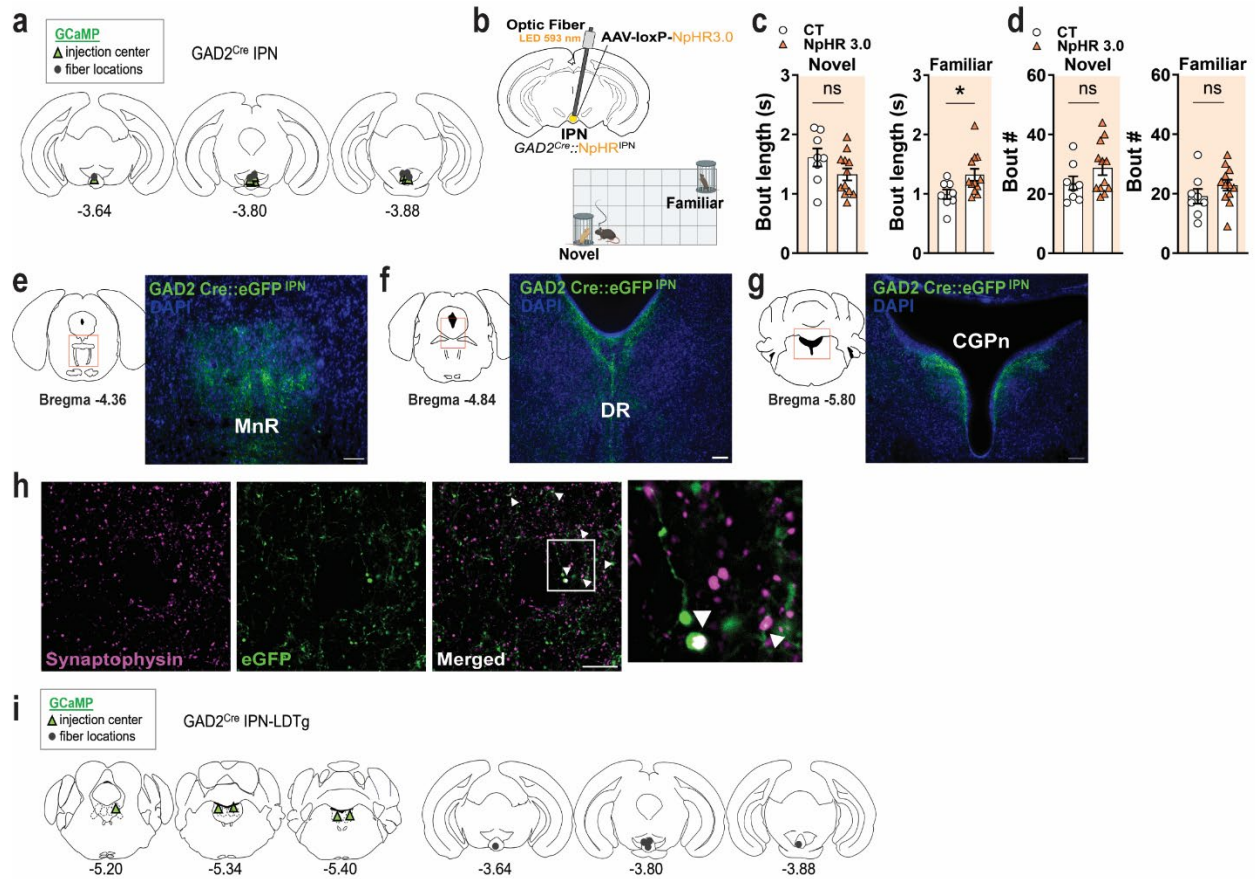
Supplementary Figure 4. Social novelty increases NAc DA release in female mice.

(a) Schematics of viral injection and recording strategy used in C57BL/6 female mice to measure NAc DA signals (*left*) and fiber placements from the recorded dLight 1.2. NAc C57BL/6 females ($n=5$ mice)(*right*). (b) Heatmap representations and z-score values of time-locked NAc DA signals relative to the time initiating a social investigation (red line) on Days 1 to 3 of the social test. The first social investigation is compared to the subsequent ones. Mouse illustration made with Biorender. Quantification of activity responses in (b) as (c) mean z-score, two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,8)}=1.855, P=0.2235$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,4)}=4.459, P=0.1023$; interaction: $F_{(2,8)}=2.251, P=0.1996$), (d) mean AUC, two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,8)}=1.731, P=0.2486$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,4)}=4.433, P=0.1030$; interaction: $F_{(2,8)}=1.756, P=0.2486$). (e) Peak onset (s) of activity responses in (b). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,8)}=2.084, P=0.1920$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,4)}=4.900, P=0.0913$; interaction: $F_{(2,8)}=2.001, P=0.2099$). (f) Peak

latency (s) of activity responses in (b). Two-way RM ANOVA (time main effect: $F_{(2,8)}=12.73$, $P=0.0138$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,4)}=4.058$, $P=0.1142$; interaction: $F_{(2,8)}=7.050$, $P=0.0287$). Šidák's multiple comparisons * $p<0.05$. Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



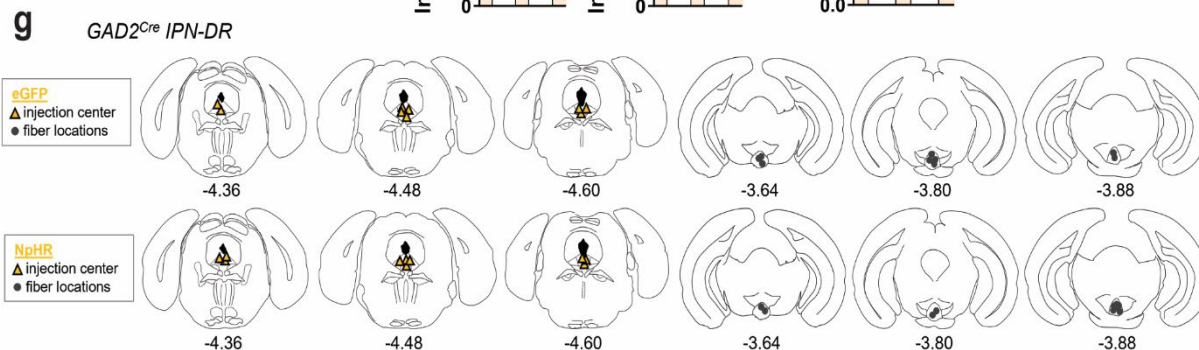
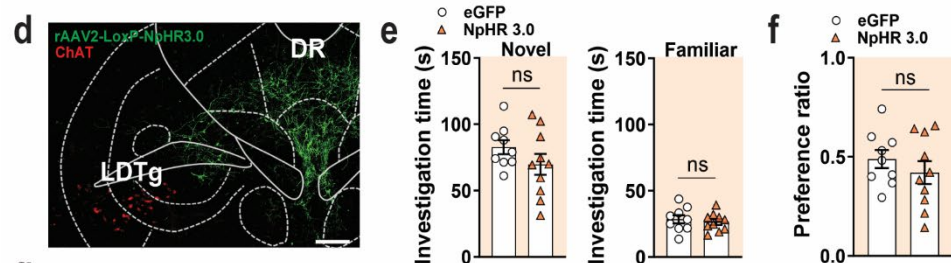
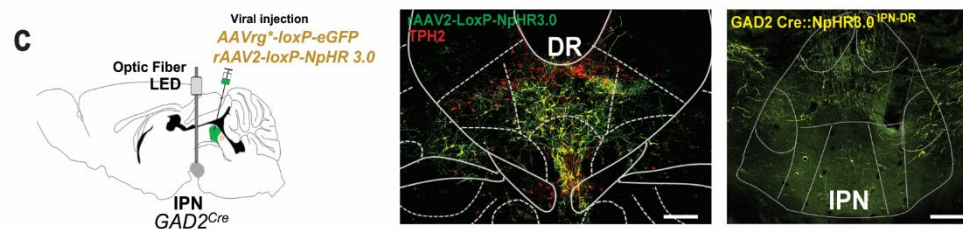
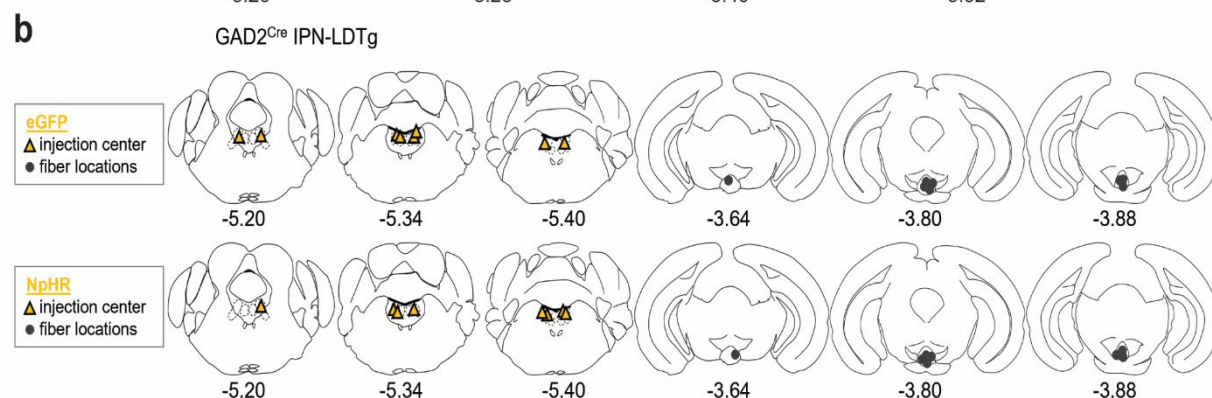
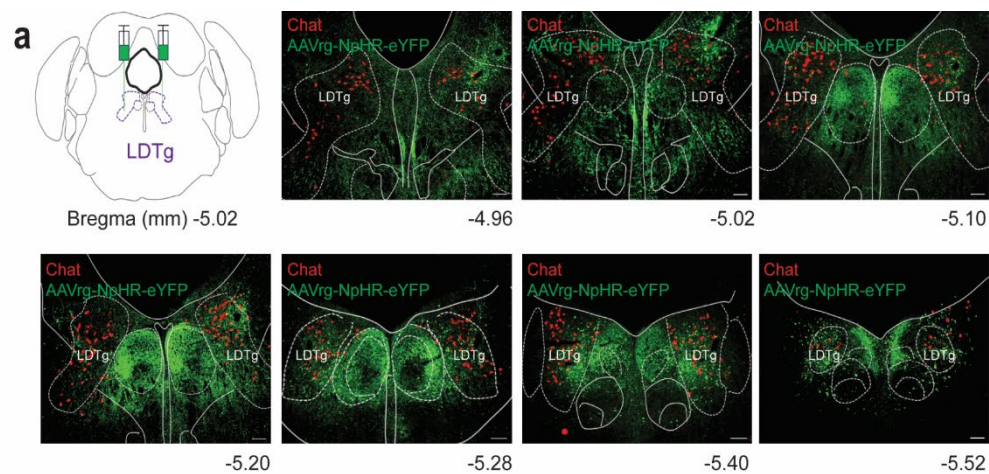
Supplementary Figure 5. VTA DA activity increases in female mice with social novelty investigations during NP. (a) *Left*, schematic of viral injection and recording strategy used to measure female VTA DA GCaMP. *Right*, heatmap and z-scores of DA VTA GCaMP signals time-locked to novel and familiar investigations in the social NP test ($n = 6$ female mice). Mouse illustration made with Biorender. (b) Quantification of responses in (a). Two-way RM ANOVA (novel vs familiar main effect: $F_{(1,10)}=5.769$, $P=0.0372$; bout main effect: $F_{(1,10)}=1.451$, $P=0.2562$; interaction: $F_{(1,10)}=1.779$, $P=0.2119$). (c) Viral injections and fiber placements in $\text{DAT}^{\text{VTA:mCherry}}$ and $\text{DAT}^{\text{VTA:Chrimson}}$ animals used in Fig. 3j-n ($n = 14$ male mice/group). Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Two-way RM ANOVA & $p < 0.05$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



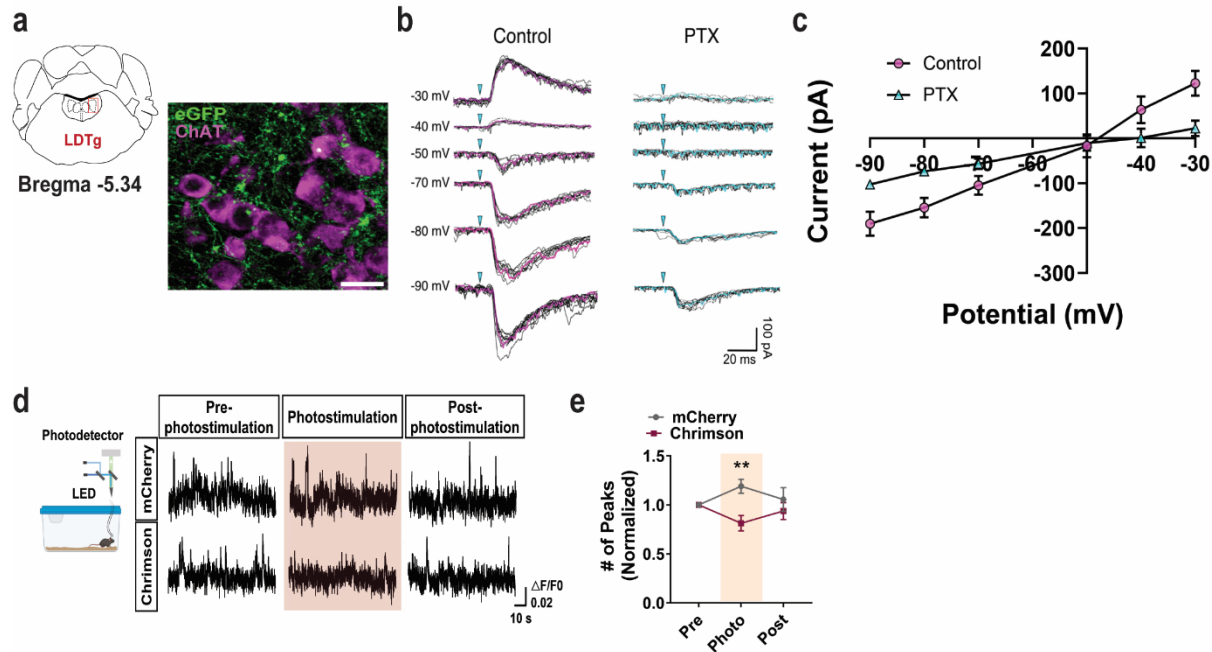
Supplementary Figure 6. IPN GAD2 neurons control bout length of familiar social investigations and send projections to midbrain/hindbrain areas.

(a) Schematic of fiber placements from recorded GAD2^{Cre} animals expressing GCaMP in the IPN used in Fig. 4a-f (n=8 male mice). (b) Schematics of NpHR3.0 viral-mediated expression in the IPN of GAD2^{Cre} mice and the NP behavioral paradigm. (c) Bout length (s) of social investigations in control (CT) and GAD2^{IPN:NpHR} mice during the NP test (n=8-12 male mice/group). *Left*, novel investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(18)}=1.637$, $P=0.119$). *Right*, familiar investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(18)}=2.348$, $P=0.0305$). (d) Bout number of novel and familiar social investigations during the NP test in CT and GAD2^{IPN:NpHR} mice. *Left*, novel investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(18)}=1.443$, $P=0.1662$). *Right*, familiar investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(18)}=1.228$, $P=0.2354$). Axonal projections from eGFP-expressing IPN GAD2 neurons innervating the median raphe (MnR) (e), the dorsal raphe (DR) (f) and the central pontine gray (CGPn)(g). Nuclei are counterstained with DAPI. Scale bars 100 μ m. (h) Immunostaining of the presynaptic marker synaptophysin (magenta) in the LDTg, colocalized (arrows) with eGFP⁺ axon terminals from IPN GAD2 neurons (green). Scale bar 50 μ m. (i) Schematics of retroviral GCaMP injection location in

the LDTg and fiber placements in the IPN from IPN→LDTg GAD2 recorded animals used in Fig. 5a-f (n = 5 male mice). Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Unpaired two-tailed t-test *p<0.05. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

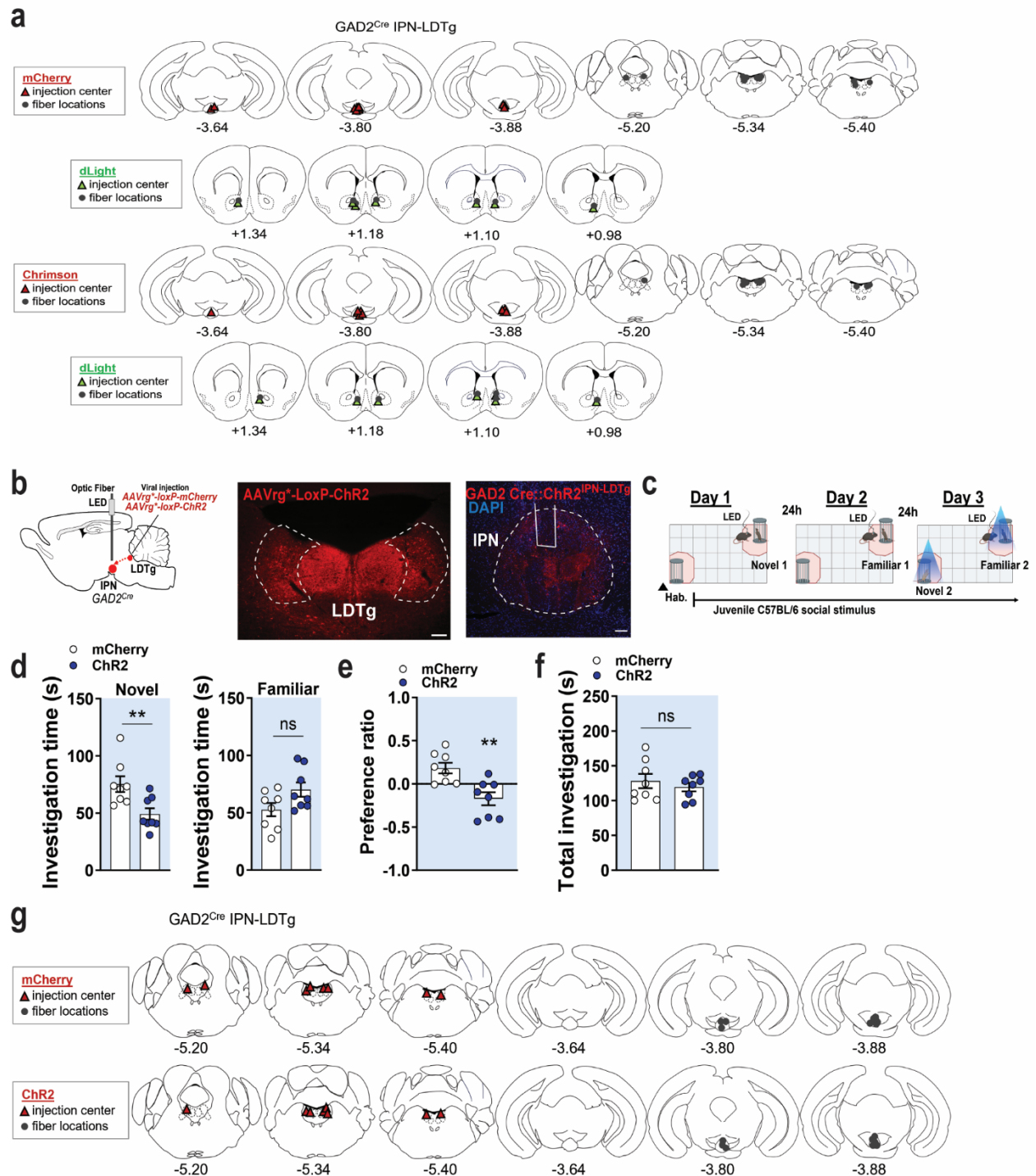


Supplementary Figure 7. Social NP ratio is not mediated by IPN GAD2 neurons projecting to the DR. (a) Schematics of viral injection used and representative images of retroviral-mediated NpHR injection at different Bregma coordinates containing the LDTg in GAD2^{Cre} mice. ChAT immunostaining (red) identifies cholinergic neurons in the LDTg area. Scale bars, 100μm. (b) Schematics of viral injections and fiber placements in GAD2^{IPN-LDTg:eGFP} and GAD2^{IPN-LDTg:NpHR} animals used in Fig. 5g-m (n = 8 male mice/group). (c) *Left*, diagram of the viral injection strategy used. *Middle*, representative image of retroviral-mediated NpHR injection in the DR of GAD2^{Cre} mice. Tph2 (red) immunostaining defines the DR area. Scale bars, 100μm. *Right*, representative image of viral expression and fiber placement in the IPN of GAD2^{IPN-DR:NpHR} animals. Scale bars, 100μm. (d) Representative image of retroviral-mediated NpHR injection in the DR of GAD2^{Cre} mice with ChAT immunostaining (red). Scale bars, 100μm. (e) Time (s) of novel and familiar social investigations in GAD2^{IPN→DR:eGFP} and GAD2^{IPN→DR:NpHR} mice during the NP task. (n= 9-10 male mice/group). *Left*, novel investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(17)}=1.329$, $P=0.2013$). *Right*, familiar investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(17)}=0.5588$, $P=0.5836$). (f) Social NP ratio in GAD2^{IPN→DR:eGFP} and GAD2^{IPN→DR:NpHR} mice. Unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(17)}=0.9105$, $P=0.3753$). (g) Schematics of viral injection and optic fiber placement in the animals used in (e-f). Data represent mean ± SEM. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Figure 8. The IPN→LDTg circuit innervates Chat+ LDTg→VTA neurons and regulate the release of DA in the NAc.

(a) eGFP-expressing IPN GAD2+ axons (green) surrounding cholinergic neurons (ChAT immunostaining, magenta) in the LDTg area. Scale bar 50 μ m. (b) Representative traces of LDTg→VTA ChAT+ neuronal responses upon blue light photostimulation (450 nm, blue arrow) of IPN axon terminals in control (*left*) and during exposure to picrotoxin (PTX, 50 μ M)(*right*) conditions at holding potentials of -30, -40, -50, -70, -80, and -90 mV. At each potential, we recorded 10 traces (black) with averages represented in magenta (control) and turquoise (PTX) lines. In both groups, LDTg neurons have a reversal potential of approximately -45 mV. (c) Current-voltage relationship of light-evoked currents in control conditions and in the presence of PTX (n = 3 animals, 6 cells). (d) Representative traces of NAc DA signals (dF/F_0) in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:Chrimson} mice in their home cages pre-photostimulation, during photostimulation and post-photostimulation of the IPN^{GAD2}→LDTg circuit. (e) Normalized number of NAc DA peak activity in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:Chrimson} mice in their home cages during a 5-min recording period pre-photostimulation, during photostimulation and post-photostimulation of the IPN^{GAD2}→LDTg circuit. Two-way RM ANOVA (virus main effect: $F_{(1,8)}=6.360$, $P=0.0357$; time main effect: $F_{(2,16)}=0.003236$, $P=0.9968$; interaction: $F_{(2,16)}=3.649$, $P=0.0495$) (n = 5 male mice/group). Šidák's multiple comparisons ** $p < 0.01$. Data represent mean $\pm$ SEM. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Figure 9. Optogenetic manipulation of the IPN→LDTg GAD2 neuronal circuit during the social NP test. (a) Schematics of viral injection and fiber placement in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg}:mCherry and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg}:Chrimson mice during the NP task (n = 10-11 male mice/group) used in Fig. 7. (b) *Left*, schematics of the retroviral injection and optic fiber implant strategy used. *Middle*, representative image of retroviral-mediated ChR2:mCherry injection in the

LDTg of GAD2^{Cre} mice. *Right*, photomicrograph of retroviral ChR2:mCherry-expressing IPN→LDTg neurons and fiber track in the IPN. Nuclei are counterstained with DAPI. Scale bars 100μm. (c) Schematic of the social paradigm, generated using Biorender, used with closed-loop optogenetic stimulation during the NP task. (d) Time (s) of novel and familiar social investigations in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:ChR2} mice during the NP task. (n= 8 male mice/group). *Left*, novel investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(14)}=3.084$, $P=0.0081$). *Right*, familiar investigations unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(14)}=2.033$, $P=0.0614$). (e) Social NP ratio in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:ChR2} mice. Unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(14)}=3.652$, $P=0.026$). (f) Total time (s) in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:ChR2} mice during the NP task. Unpaired two-tailed t-test ($t_{(14)}=0.7392$, $P=0.4720$). (g) Schematics of viral injection and fiber placement in GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:mCherry} and GAD2^{IPN→LDTg:ChR2} mice used in (c-f). Data represent mean ± SEM. Unpaired two-tailed t-test **p<0.01. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.