Dangerous dogs: assessment and legislation

Selected references from CABAbstracts from 2008-2014

<1>
Accession Number
20133327577
Author
Harding, S.
Title
'Bling with bite' - the rise of status and weapon dogs.
Source
Publisher
BMJ Publishing Group
Location of Publisher
London
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Simon Harding looks into what motivates people to own 'status' or 'weapon' dogs, and why numbers are increasing.
Publication Type
Journal article.

<2>
Accession Number
20133085529
Author
Tudor, N.
Title
Law, ethics and professional practice - Part 1: euthanasia of healthy, but aggressive, dogs.
Source
Veterinary Nursing Journal; 2013. 28(2):58-59. 8 ref.
Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is in place to protect the public from aggressive dogs. Many dogs are euthanased as a result of vicious attacks on animals and people, especially children. The first article in this three-part series will focus on why dogs bite and the consequences of aggressive tendencies - for the dog, dog owner, veterinary surgeon and the veterinary nurse. The veterinary nurse has a duty of care ethically and professionally, but not every case is 'black and white'. So what would you do if you disagreed with the decision to euthanase a healthy, but potentially aggressive, dog?
Publication Type
Journal article.

<3>
Accession Number
20133075152
Author
Amat, M.; Brech, S. le; Camps, T.; Torrente, C.; Mariotti, V. M.; Ruiz, J. L.; Manteca, X.
Title
Differences in serotonin serum concentration between aggressive English cocker spaniels and aggressive dogs of other breeds.

Source

Abstract
Aggression is one of the most common behavioral problems in dogs and may have important negative effects on public health, human-animal bond, and animal welfare. There is ample evidence showing a negative correlation between serum serotonin concentration and aggressive behavior in a variety of species, including the domestic dogs. This negative correlation is particularly pronounced in dogs that show impulsive aggression. Data obtained in some previous studies suggest that the English cocker spaniel (ECS) is more likely to show impulsive aggression than other breeds. Therefore, the aim of this study was to analyze possible differences in serum serotonin levels between aggressive ECS and aggressive dogs of other breeds. Nineteen ECSs presented for aggression at the Animal Behavior Service (School of Veterinary Science, Barcelona, Spain) were evaluated and compared with 20 aggressive dogs of other breeds attended at the same center. Serum serotonin levels were measured using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay method. Statistical analysis was done using the SPSS 15.0 for Windows. Aggressive ECSs had significantly (P<0.001) lower levels of serum serotonin than aggressive dogs of other breeds (318.6+ or-67.1 and 852.77+ or-100.58 ng/mL, respectively). Variances were not significantly different between ECSs and other breeds (standard deviation=449.84 ng/mL vs. 292.47 ng/mL, P>0.05). This finding may explain why ECSs are more likely to show impulsive aggression than other breeds, and suggests that the ECS could be a good model to study the neurophysiologic mechanisms underlying impulsive aggression.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20113383038

Author
MacNeil-Allcock, A.; Clarke, N. M.; Ledger, R. A.; Fraser, D.

Title
Aggression, behaviour, and animal care among pit bulls and other dogs adopted from an animal shelter.

Source

Publisher
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

Abstract
Pit bull dogs are a focus of concern because of their reputation for aggression toward people and because they may be mistreated by owners who try to promote aggressive behaviour. This study followed 40 pit bulls and 42 similar-sized dogs of other breeds at an animal shelter. Three pit bulls and two dogs of other breeds were euthanised because of aggression toward people at the shelter, and the remaining 77 dogs were re-homed. Of these, one pit bull and ten dogs of other breeds were returned to the shelter because of alleged aggression. For the dogs that were retained for at least two months, owner reports of aggression in various situations (to strangers, to other dogs, etc) were similar for the two groups. Reported care of the two groups was also similar except that pit bulls were more likely to sleep on the owner's bed and more likely to cuddle with the owner. Pit bull adopters
were more likely to be under the age of 30, to rent (rather than own) their home, and to be adopting their first dog, perhaps because of a bias against pit bulls among older adopters. The study provided no evidence of greater aggression or poorer care among adopted pit bulls compared to dogs of other breeds.

Publication Type
Journal article.

<5>
Accession Number
20133085529
Author
Tudor, N.
Title
Law, ethics and professional practice - Part 1: euthanasia of healthy, but aggressive, dogs.
Source
Veterinary Nursing Journal; 2013. 28: 2, 58-59. 8 ref.
Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is in place to protect the public from aggressive dogs. Many dogs are euthanased as a result of vicious attacks on animals and people, especially children. The first article in this three-part series will focus on why dogs bite and the consequences of aggressive tendencies - for the dog, dog owner, veterinary surgeon and the veterinary nurse. The veterinary nurse has a duty of care ethically and professionally, but not every case is 'black and white'. So what would you do if you disagreed with the decision to euthanase a healthy, but potentially aggressive, dog?

<6>
Accession Number
20133075152
Author
Amat, M.; Brech, S. le; Camps, T.; Torrente, C.; Mariotti, V. M.; Ruiz, J. L.; Manteca, X.
Title
Differences in serotonin serum concentration between aggressive English cocker spaniels and aggressive dogs of other breeds.
Source
Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research; 2013. 8: 1, 19-25. many ref.
Publisher
Elsevier
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Aggression is one of the most common behavioral problems in dogs and may have important negative effects on public health, human-animal bond, and animal welfare. There is ample evidence showing a negative correlation between serum serotonin concentration and aggressive behavior in a variety of species, including the domestic dogs. This negative correlation is particularly pronounced in dogs that show impulsive aggression. Data obtained in some previous studies suggest that the English cocker spaniel (ECS) is more likely to show impulsive aggression than other breeds.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to analyze possible differences in serum serotonin levels between aggressive ECS and aggressive dogs of other breeds. Nineteen ECSs presented for aggression at the Animal Behavior Service (School of Veterinary Science, Barcelona, Spain) were
evaluated and compared with 20 aggressive dogs of other breeds attended at the same center. Serum serotonin levels were measured using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay method. Statistical analysis was done using the SPSS 15.0 for Windows. Aggressive ECSs had significantly (P<0.001) lower levels of serum serotonin than aggressive dogs of other breeds (318.6±67.1 and 852.7±100.58 ng/mL, respectively). Variances were not significantly different between ECSs and other breeds (standard deviation=449.84 ng/mL vs. 292.47 ng/mL, P>0.05). This finding may explain why ECSs are more likely to show impulsive aggression than other breeds, and suggests that the ECS could be a good model to study the neurophysiologic mechanisms underlying impulsive aggression.

<7>
Accession Number
20123413786
Author
Leon, M.; Rosado, B.; Garcia-Belenguer, S.; Chacon, G.; Villegas, A.; Palacio, J.
Title
Assessment of serotonin in serum, plasma, and platelets of aggressive dogs.
Source
Publisher
Elsevier
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Canine aggression is the most common reason for the referral of dogs to behavior practices. In addition, dog bites represent an important problem for public health and animal welfare. The serotonergic system is believed to play an important role in modulating aggression. The aim of the present study was (1) to assess the suitability of different types of blood samples for measuring circulating serotonin in canine clinical studies, and (2) to investigate the relationship between the serotonergic system and canine aggression. The assessment of serotonin was simultaneously carried out in serum, plasma, and platelets of 28 aggressive and 10 nonaggressive dogs with an enzyme immunoassay technique. The mean serotonin concentration in aggressive dogs was significantly lower than in nonaggressive dogs in all the assayed samples. These findings suggest an inverse relationship between the activity of the serotonergic system and canine aggression. Considering the simplicity of the methodology, the authors propose sampling serum as the most suitable method for measuring circulating serotonin in dogs.

<8>
Accession Number
20123381482
Author
Title
Investigating behavior assessment instruments to predict aggression in dogs.
Source
Publisher
Elsevier Ltd
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
This masked controlled study evaluated a group of dogs to determine if the results of two behavior assessments detected aggression in dogs that had a history of aggression according to a validated questionnaire for measuring behavior and temperament traits in dogs. Groups of dogs with or without a history of aggression were identified from owner-completed questionnaires for 67 dogs. Any dogs that had a maximum score of no greater than 1 for any question comprising aggression factors were placed in the low/no aggression group and any dogs that had a maximum score of 2 or higher on any question comprising the aggression factors were placed in the moderate to severe aggression group. This second group was further divided to separate moderate aggression from severe aggression. Two behavior assessments, Meet Your Match (MYM)<sup>TM</sup> Safety Assessment for Evaluating Rehoming<sup>TM</sup> (SAFER<sup>TM</sup>) (SAFER) and a modified version of Assess-A-Pet (mAAP), were administered to each dog in random order by assistants masked to the dogs' behavioral histories. The scores for each assessment were divided into binary categorizations (no aggression or aggression). For SAFER, the aggression category was further divided, separating dogs that showed fear, arousal or inhibited aggression from those that showed moderate aggression, and from those that showed severe aggression. The previously established categories for the mAAP of 'no issue', 'unsocial', 'borderline' and 'fail' were also used. Subtest scores for each assessment were also summed. With binary categorization, SAFER showed both lower sensitivity and specificity at 0.60 (95% confidence limits (CL)=0.44, 0.74) and 0.50 (95% CL=0.28, 0.72) respectively, than mAAP at 0.73 (95% CL=0.58, 0.85) and 0.59 (95% CL=0.36, 0.79) respectively. The odds ratio showed that an aggressive dog was 4.1-fold more likely to be classified in an aggression group by the mAAP test and 1.5 times more likely by SAFER. When the assessments were split into multiple categories, SAFER results were no longer significant, but mAAP maintained a statistically significant but weak correlation of 0.34 (P=0.005) with historical aggression categories. SAFER testing was unable to identify dogs with moderate aggression that could potentially be addressed with behavior modification. By independently selecting acceptable levels of false positive or false negative results for the assessment, summed score results could be used in shelters as an aid to selecting dogs for adoption. Behavioral assessment results should be used in conjunction with other information such as intake history and staff observations to make an informed outcome decision for an individual dog.

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Accession Number
20123360667

Author
Oxley, J. A.

Title
Dog owners’ perceptions of breed-specific dangerous dog legislation in the UK.

Source
Veterinary Record; 2012. 171: 17, 424.

Publisher
BMJ Publishing Group

Location of Publisher
London

Country of Publication
UK

Abstract
The aim of this study was to identify both the level and source of knowledge that dog owners in the UK have of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. In order to acquire such information a questionnaire was designed and distributed using two main methods over a period of five months. Questionnaires were distributed via three pet-related online forums and by hand at two locations within five predefined areas in England. In total, 459 responses were received. Of these, 21.4 per cent were unable to name a single type of banned dog and 81.9 per cent of respondents agreed that information on dog legislation was not publicised enough. The knowledge of banned breeds among the dog owners surveyed was low and respondents expressed a desire to see the law relating to dangerous dogs in the UK either changed or improved.
A cross-sectional study was performed in order to examine the association between canine aggression to familiar people and serum concentrations of total thyroxine (TT4), free thyroxine (fT4), thyroxine autoantibodies (T4AA), total triiodothyronine (TT3), free triiodothyronine (fT3), triiodothyronine autoantibodies (T3AA), thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), and thyroglobulin autoantibodies (TgAA). The subjects were 31 dogs historically aggressive to familiar people and 31 dogs with no history of aggression. Behavioral evaluation and physical examination were completed for each dog in addition to a complete blood count, serum chemistry panel, TT4, fT4 by equilibrium dialysis, TT3, fT3, TgAA, T3AA, and T4AA. Significant differences were found between the two groups with respect to only T4AA, which was increased in the aggressive group, but the concentrations for both groups were within the normal reference range. There were no differences between the two groups in the thyroid analytes most commonly measured by veterinary practitioners evaluating thyroid function in dogs. The results of this study revealed no significant difference between aggressive and non-aggressive dogs in the thyroid concentrations most commonly used to diagnose canine hypothyroidism.

The current study investigated the relationship between dimensions of personality, self-reports of delinquency, mating effort, and the desire to own a dog perceived as aggressive. Seven common breeds of dog were rated by 235 participants living within the UK and North America, using an online survey application. Participants also completed scales measuring personality, earlier delinquency, and mating effort. A clear dimension in perceived aggressiveness was found across dog breeds. Persons lower in Agreeableness, higher in Neuroticism and Conscientiousness, and of younger age actively preferred a dog perceived as aggressive. Neither delinquency nor mating effort actively predicted this preference for an aggressive dog, although these measures were themselves correlated with Agreeableness; a regression analysis found that low Agreeableness, younger age, and higher Conscientiousness predicted higher ratings on the aggression preference dimension. These findings show that a preference for a more aggressive dog is not necessarily driven by self-reported status.
display and intersexual competition so much as youth, low Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness generally.

<12>
Accession Number
20123179597
Author
Barnard, S.; Siracusa, C.; Reisner, I.; Valsecchi, P.; Serpell, J. A.
Title
Validity of model devices used to assess canine temperament in behavioral tests.
Source
Publisher
Elsevier Ltd
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Temperament tests are widely accepted as instruments for profiling behavioral variability in dogs, and they are applied in numerous areas of investigation (e.g. suitability for adoption or for breeding). During testing, to elicit a dog's reaction toward novel stimuli and predict its behavior in everyday life, model devices such as a child-like doll, or a fake dog, are often employed. However, the reliability of these devices to accurately stimulate dogs' reactions to children or dogs, is unknown and perhaps overestimated. This may be a particular concern in the case of aggressive behavior toward humans, a significant public health issue. The aim of this study was to: (1) evaluate the correlation between dogs' reactions to these devices, and owners' reports of their dog's aggression history (using the C-BARQ copyright); (2) compare reactions toward the devices of dogs with and without histories of aggression. Subjects were selected among those visiting for behavioral consultation at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and previously categorized as aggressive toward unfamiliar children, conspecifics, or as non-aggressive dogs (control). The test consisted of different components: an unfamiliar female tester approaching the dog; the presentation of a child-like doll, an ambiguous object, and a fake plastic dog. All tests were videotaped and durations of behaviors were later analyzed on the basis of a specified ethogram. Dogs' reactions were compared to C-BARQ scores, and interesting correlations emerged for 'dog-directed aggression/fear' (R=0.48, P=0.004), and 'stranger-directed aggression' (R=0.58, P<0.001) factors. Dogs differed in their reactions toward the devices: the child-like doll and the fake dog elicited more social behaviors than the ambiguous object used as a control stimulus. Issues concerning the reliability of these tools to assess canine temperament are discussed.

<13>
Accession Number
20113210125
Author
Dobson, J.
Title
Do breed-specific traits exist and thus justify legislation?
Source
Veterinary Times; 2011. 41: 26, 28. 3 ref.
Publisher
Veterinary Business Development Ltd
Location of Publisher
Peterborough
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Breed-specific legislation (BSL) controversially pre-supposes that certain breeds are inherently dangerous, and that those not so proscribed are less so. This brings into question whether there is
"breed-specific behaviour". Any breed-related behavioural traits are much more malleable than physical characteristics, deliberately or accidentally - particularly at significant developmental stages and during formative periods, prior to social maturity. It would seem more accurate to refer to breed-typical than breed-specific behaviour. Owners vary greatly in their ability to handle dogs, for a number of reasons, and are likely to be a much more significant single influence on how their dog develops to maturity, physically and behaviourally, than just its breed, with some owners actively seeking to develop antisocial behaviour in their dogs, and to be attracted to a certain "type" of breed. Banning by breed encourages keeping similarly behaviourally inclined, but physically slightly different, dogs to get round the appearance-dependent legislation. BSL very heavily penalises well-behaved, responsibly owned individuals of the proscribed breeds. Possibly pre-emptive legislation aimed at owners likely to be irresponsible, or to misuse their dogs, may be a better way of preventing injuries from dangerous dogs, while also benefiting the dogs themselves if it prevents them from being kept in situations contrary to good welfare.

Accession Number
20113021331
Author
Borg, J. A. M. van der; Beerda, B.; Ooms, M.; Souza, A. S. de; Hagen, M. van; Kemp, B.
Title
Evaluation of behaviour testing for human directed aggression in dogs.
Source
Publisher
Elsevier Ltd
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Behaviour test batteries are used to identify aggressive dogs. The Dutch Socially Acceptable Behaviour (SAB)-test has been used since 2001 to select against unwanted aggression and fear in specific dog breeds, though much is unknown yet regarding its reliability, validity and feasibility. In this paper the SAB-test is evaluated and the results describe its usefulness for identifying aggression towards humans in dogs. Behaviour test outcomes on 345 dogs (479 records on tests performed indoor and outdoor) scored by the judges of the Dutch Kennel Club were compared to owner reported assessments of their dogs' behaviour prior to testing. Dogs were labelled aggressive when having bitten a human at least once according to the owner and were diagnosed by the judges as such when attacking at least once during the SAB-test. Aggressive dogs showed significantly more attacks than non-aggressive controls and a Principal Components Analysis of detailed observations on 76 dogs grouped aggressive behaviours like growl, bare teeth, snap, lunge and bite in one dimension, confirming the test's validity. Analysis of 479 test records revealed a sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of 0.33, 0.81 and 0.64, respectively. The specificity could be increased to 0.93 by raising the threshold for positive test results to at least 2 attacks during the test. The low sensitivity is explained by the decision to classify dogs as aggressive on the basis of one bite incident only and by a relative weak capacity of the test to detect specific forms of aggression. The reliability of the test was investigated by comparing test outcomes on 133 dogs when tested indoor and outdoor. The accuracy decreased from 0.67 to 0.62, but overall the indoor test outcomes were similar to those found outdoors. Scores for aggression and anxiety were significantly higher when dogs were tested for the first time in the morning than the second time in the afternoon, suggesting desensitization. Salivary cortisol concentrations in 20 dogs were not different in samples taken before and after the test, which oppose severe levels of stress. The SAB-test allows one to evaluate aggression in dogs, but present findings indicate that probably those that behave aggressively in the absence of fear remain undetected. It is recommended to increase the test's usefulness by refining or including new test components that target different forms of aggression. Formulating a risk assessment based on detailed information on a dog's behaviour during testing instead of simply producing a pass-fail judgement will facilitate a purpose specific use of the SAB-test.
Accession Number
20103374170
Author
Rosado, B.; Garcia-Belenguer, S.; Palacio, J.; Chacon, G.; Villegas, A.; Alcalde, A. I.
Title
Serotonin transporter activity in platelets and canine aggression.
Source
Veterinary Journal; 2010. 186: 1, 104-105. 12 ref.
Publisher
Elsevier Ltd
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Several studies have suggested an inhibitory action of the serotonergic system in the regulation of canine aggression, but the role of the serotonin (5-HT) transporter (5-HTT) has not been investigated. Platelet 5-HT uptake has been proposed as a peripheral marker of brain 5-HTT. The aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between platelet 5-HTT activity and canine aggression by measuring the rate of 5-HT uptake mediated by 5-HTT in platelets and serum concentrations of 5-HT in both aggressive (n=14) and non-aggressive dogs (n=17). Aggressive dogs showed significantly higher 5-HT uptake by 5-HTT in platelets and lower serum concentrations of 5-HT, compared with the control group. These results suggested an association between an alteration in the serotonergic system and canine aggression, possibly mediated by an increased 5-HT transport.

Accession Number
20103215150
Author
Vage, J.; Bonsdorff, T. B.; Arnet, E.; Tverdal, A.; Lingaas, F.
Title
Differential gene expression in brain tissues of aggressive and non-aggressive dogs.
Source
BMC Veterinary Research; 2010. 6: 34, (16 June 2010). 43 ref.
Publisher
BioMed Central Ltd
Location of Publisher
London
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Background: Canine behavioural problems, in particular aggression, are important reasons for euthanasia of otherwise healthy dogs. Aggressive behaviour in dogs also represents an animal welfare problem and a public threat. Elucidating the genetic background of adverse behaviour can provide valuable information to breeding programs and aid the development of drugs aimed at treating undesirable behaviour. With the intentions of identifying gene-specific expression in particular brain parts and comparing brains of aggressive and non-aggressive dogs, we studied amygdala, frontal cortex, hypothalamus and parietal cortex, as these tissues are reported to be involved in emotional reactions, including aggression. Based on quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) in 20 brains, obtained from 11 dogs euthanised because of aggressive behaviour and nine non-aggressive dogs, we studied expression of nine genes identified in an initial screening by subtraction hybridisation.
Results: This study describes differential expression of the UBE2V2 and ZNF227 genes in brains of aggressive and non-aggressive dogs. It also reports differential expression for eight of the studied genes across four different brain tissues (amygdala, frontal cortex, hypothalamus, and parietal cortex). Sex differences in transcription levels were detected for five of the nine studied genes.
Conclusions: The study showed significant differences in gene expression between brain compartments for most of the investigated genes. Increased expression of two genes was associated
with the aggression phenotype. Although the UBE2V2 and ZNF227 genes have no known function in regulation of aggressive behaviour, this study contributes to preliminary data of differential gene expression in the canine brain and provides new information to be further explored.

<17>
Accession Number
20103181607
Author
Landsberg, G.
Title
Management of aggressive dogs - diagnosis, prognosis, and safety.
Source
Publisher
The North American Veterinary Conference
Location of Publisher
Gainesville
Country of Publication
USA

<18>
Accession Number
20103181597
Author
Landsberg, G.
Title
Treatment of aggressive dogs - a treatment synopsis.
Source
Publisher
The North American Veterinary Conference
Location of Publisher
Gainesville
Country of Publication
USA

<19>
Accession Number
20103083858
Title
Source
Publisher
The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
Location of Publisher
London
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
This paper discusses the report prepared by the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) on dangerous dogs which states the viewpoint of relevant member organizations on how they can reduce the incidence of aggressive dogs (whether it is high-profile attacks on children, organised dog fighting, or young people with tough-looking dogs on street corners) whilst improving the welfare of dogs more generally. Key principles raised by the organizations as well as points for
consideration that were discussed includes: preventive measures and education, effective enforcement of updated legislation, and political view.

<20>
Accession Number
20093205029
Author
Amat, M.; Manteca, X.; Mariotti, V. M.; Torre, J. L. R. de la; Fatjo, J.
Title
Aggressive behavior in the English cocker spaniel.
Source
Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research; 2009. 4: 3, 111-117. many ref.
Publisher
Elsevier
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
A high percentage of aggression problems and a tendency to display noninhibited aggression in the English cocker spaniel (ECS) have been suggested by many authors. The authors of this paper designed a retrospective study to analyze the aggressive behavior of 145 ECSs presented for aggression problems to the Animal Behavior Service at the Barcelona School of Veterinary Medicine's veterinary teaching hospital. Aggressive ECSs were compared with a population of dogs of the same breed presented for a behavior problem other than aggression and with a population of aggressive dogs of other breeds. The most common forms of aggression in the ECS were owner-directed aggression (67.6%), aggression toward unfamiliar people (18.4%), aggression toward unfamiliar dogs (10.1%), and aggression toward family dogs (3.3%). Owner-directed aggression was more common in the ECS than in other breeds, although in similar contexts. In the ECS, the golden coat color was more common in the aggressive dogs than in nonaggressive dogs. ECSs showed impulsive aggression more frequently than aggressive dogs of other breeds. The aim of the study was to analyze cases of aggressive ECSs seen in a referral practice.

<21>
Accession Number
20093048344
Author
Vage, J.; Fatjo, J.; Menna, N.; Amat, M.; Nydal, R. G.; Lingaas, F.
Title
Behavioral characteristics of English cocker spaniels with owner-defined aggressive behavior.
Source
Publisher
Elsevier
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Information on the behavior of both aggressive and nonaggressive (control) English cocker spaniels (ECS) recruited for genetic analysis is presented. Information from a total of 122 dogs was gathered using questionnaires and owner interviews, resulting in analysis of 52 aggressive (5 aggressive dogs were excluded from the analysis) and 65 control dogs. Owners rated their dogs with 5-point frequency scales for unacceptable behavior toward humans (17 items), fear (20 items), barking (8 items), and aggression toward other dogs (4 items). The results show that serious, repeated growling is the most pronounced single behavior characterizing the aggressive ECS, and this seems to be the most important behavior causing owners to classify their dogs as aggressive. The other main behavior
characteristic of the aggressive group was skin-penetrating bites. Snapping and "biting in general" were also frequently reported among these dogs. The objective of this study was to describe some behavioral characteristics of ECS showing owner-defined aggressive behavior, and behavioral differences between these dogs and a group of ECS with excellent behavior.

Accession Number
20083283665
Author
Moffat, K.
Title
Addressing canine and feline aggression in the veterinary clinic. (Practical applications and new perspectives in veterinary behavior.)
Source
Publisher
W.B. Saunders
Location of Publisher
Philadelphia
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Handling aggressive dogs and cats in the veterinary clinic can be frustrating, time consuming, and injurious for both employee and animal. This article discusses the aetiology of the aggressive dog and cat patient and how best to approach these cases. A variety of handling techniques, safety products, and drug therapy are reviewed.

Accession Number
20083220095
Author
Crowell-Davis, S. L.
Title
Aggressive dogs: assessment and treatment considerations.
Source
Compendium Continuing Education for Veterinarian; 2008. 30: 5, 274-280. 1 ref.
Publisher
Veterinary Learning Systems
Location of Publisher
Yardley
Country of Publication
USA