by Jane Berkey

DOG BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

The cost to people, pets and veterinarians, and the damage to the human-animal bond.

Veterinarians, their clients, and their clients' pets in 300 cities and towns in the United States live with special burdens and added costs because of ordinances banning or restricting dogs of one or more breeds and breed mixes. Thirty-six breeds of dogs and mixes of those breeds have been restricted, in various combinations and groupings. These restrictions and bans compromise the human-animal bond and complicate the professional landscape for veterinarians.

"There has never been any evidence that breed bans or restrictions contribute to improved public safety."

AVMA, the CDC, the National Animal Control Association, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and virtually all animal welfare charities oppose breed-specific regulation.[1] AVMA PLIT recently released a statement opposing breed discrimination by insurers.

There has never been any evidence that breed bans or restrictions contribute to improved public safety. The Netherlands repealed its breed ban last year because, based upon a report from a committee of experts, the ban had not led to any decrease in dog bites.[2] Italy repealed its breed-specific regulations in April of this year.[3]

DEMONIZED DOGS THEN

As America's conflict over slavery intensified, public attitudes towards the bloodhound paralleled the increasingly negative attitudes towards the dogs' most publicized function: slave catching. The depiction of the slave catcher's dog in stage re-enactments of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN made him an object of dread to ordinary citizens, and an object of attraction to dog owners who wanted dogs for anti-social purposes. As these owners acquired more and more dogs, serious incidents – and fatalities – associated with dogs identified as bloodhounds became prominent in the public press.[4]

In the 20th century, other groups of dogs replaced the bloodhound as objects of dread, most notably the German Shepherd (In 1925, a New York City magistrate said they should be banned.[5] Australia banned the importation of German Shepherds from 1928 until 1973[6]), the Doberman Pinscher (frequently associated with soldiers of the Third Reich), and the Rottweiler (portrayed as the guardian of Satan's child in the popular 1976 film THE OMEN).

DEMONIZED DOGS NOW

Early in the 20th century, pit bull type dogs enjoyed an excellent popular reputation. An American Bull Terrier had symbolized the United States on a

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World War One propaganda poster. "Tighe", a pit bull type dog, had helped sell Buster Brown shoes. Pete the Pup, the "little rascals" pit bull pal of the Our Gang comedies, was the first AKC-registered Staffordshire Terrier (Registration number A-103929).

In 1976, the Federal government amended the Animal Welfare Act to make trafficking in dogs for the purposes of dog fighting a crime. The media focused on the dogs, rather than on the people who fought the dogs; and the dogs made headlines. Monster myths of super-canine powers began to dominate the stories.[7] As had happened to the bloodhound, the myths attracted the kind of owners who use dogs for negative functions. Sensationalized, saturation news reporting of incidents involving dogs called pit bulls, linked them in the public mind almost exclusively with criminal activity. This small subset of dogs being used for these negative purposes came to define the millions of pit bull type dogs living companionably at home.

"Dog bite statistics are not statistics, and do not give an accurate representation of dogs that bite."[10]

WRONG NUMBERS, NOT STATISTICS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) attempted to identify the breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks.[8] The study period, 1979–1998, happened to coincide with the sensationalized media portrayal and resulting notoriety of pit bulls and Rottweilers.[4,7]

In reporting their findings, the researchers made clear that the breeds of dogs said to be involved in human fatalities had varied over time, pointing out that the period 1975–1980 showed a different distribution of breeds than the later years.[8] Subsequently, Karen Delise of the National Canine Research Council reported that, in the decade 1966–1975, fewer than 2% of all dogs involved in fatal attacks in the United States were identified as of the breeds that figured prominently in the CDC study.[4]

The CDC has since concluded that their single-vector epidemiological approach did not "identify specific breeds that are most likely to bite or kill, and thus is not appropriate for policymaking decisions related to the topic."[1] AVMA has published a statement to the same effect.[9]

"Dog bite statistics are not statistics, and do not give an accurate representation of dogs that bite."[10] Nevertheless, the questionable data-set covering only one particular 20-year period, and not the researchers' conclusions and recommendations, is repeatedly cited in legislative forums, in the press, and in the courts to justify breed discrimination. Dr. Gail Golab of the AVMA, one of the researchers involved in the CDC project, said, "The whole point of our summary was to explain why you can't do that. But the media and the people who want to support their case just don't look at that."[11]

The researchers had suspected that media coverage of "newsworthy" breeds could have resulted in "differential ascertainment" of fatalities by breed attribution. Relying on media archives, of the 327 fatalities identified within the 20-year period, the researchers located breed or breed-mix identifications for 238, approximately 72% of the total. More than 25 breeds of dogs were identified.[8]

Of those incidents for which the researchers could find no breed attributions (n = 89), Karen Delise of the National Canine Research Council later located breed attributions in 40; and 37 of these cases involved dogs identified as other than Rottweiler and pit bull, a result that confirmed the researchers concerns regarding "differential ascertainment" of incidents because of breed bias.[12]

In addition to the problem of the small, unrepresentative, and incomplete data sets, the researchers expressed concern about the reliability of the breed identifications they had obtained, and were uncertain how to count attacks involving "cross bred" dogs.[8]

It is estimated that at least one-half of the dogs in the United States are mixed breed dogs.[13] What is the reliability or significance of a visual breed identification of a dog of unknown history and genetics?

Pit bull is not a breed, but describes a group of dogs that includes American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, an increasing number of other pure breeds, and an ever-increasing group of dogs that are presumed, on the basis of appearance, to be mixes of one or more of those breeds. Ordinances restricting or banning dogs generally rely on someone's visual assessment of their physical characteristics.

The modern science of genetics renders a breed label based on visual identification problematic. According to Sue DeNise, vice-president of MMI Genomics, creators the Canine Heritage Breed Test for mixed breed dogs, each test result is furnished to the dog owner with the following proviso: "Your dog's visual appearance may vary from the listed breed(s) due to the inherent randomness of phenotypic expression in every individual."[14]

Scott and Fuller, in their landmark genetic studies, produced offspring of considerable phenotypic variety from purebred and F1 crosses.

Breed identification of a mixed breed dog based on its phenotype is unscientific, and is likely to be contradicted by a DNA test. A study to be published in the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science points to a substantial discrepancy between visual identifications of dogs by adoption agency personnel and the breeds identified in the same dogs through DNA analysis. Of 16 mixed breed dogs labeled as being partly a specified breed, in only 25% of these dogs was that breed also detected by DNA analysis.[15]

THE LANDSCAPE OF BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

Legislative restrictions range from an outright ban in Denver, Colorado, where, since 1989, thousands of dogs have been seized and killed[16]; to a regulatory catalog of muzzling, neutering, and confinement mandates that only apply to the regulated group, however defined; and to requirements that owners pay special license fees and maintain higher levels of liability insurance. Apart from statutory requirements, some homeowners' insurers are imposing special requirements before they will include liability coverage for dogs of certain breeds, or are declining to cover dogs of an increasing number of breeds altogether. Rental apartments, planned communities, campgrounds, and neighborhood associations impose a wide range of special rules or restrictions regarding many breeds of dogs.

"Breed identification of a mixed breed dog based on its phenotype is unscientific, and is likely to be contradicted by a DNA test."

In a jurisdiction with breed-specific regulations, veterinarians can easily be drawn into an official controversy. When a police officer in Maquoketa, Iowa identified a dog as a pit bull and served notice on the owner that she had to remove it from the town, the owner appealed to the state Office of Citizen's Aide/Ombudsman. The 21-page report that resulted, chronicles the failure to arrive at an agreed-upon breed identification for the dog. Among other documents, the owner produced

vaccination certificates from her veterinarian that described the dog as a "Rott-mix." The town countered with another veterinarian's intake form that described the dog as a "pit mix".[17]

In January, 2009, the U.S. Department of the Army banned Chows, Rottweilers, pit bulls, wolf hybrids and Doberman Pinschers from all privatized military housing. The previous July, Fort Hood, Texas banned pit bulls and pit bull mixes from government housing. The Fort Hood mission support order specifies that, in the event of a dispute, "the Fort Hood Veterinary Clinic [emphasis mine] will be the deciding authority to determine if a dog is a Pit Bull [sic] cross."[18]

HUMANE COMMUNITIES ARE SAFER COMMUNITIES

In "A Community Approach to Dog bite Prevention," the AVMA Task Force reported, "An often asked question is what breed or breeds of dogs are 'most dangerous'? This inquiry can be prompted by a serious attack by a specific dog, or it may be the result of media-driven portrayals of a specific breed as 'dangerous.' . . . singling out 1 or 2 breeds for control . . . ignores the true scope of the problem and will not result in a responsible approach to protecting a community's citizens."[10] Delise, based upon her study of fatal attacks over the past five decades, has identified poor ownership/management practices involved in the overwhelming majority of these incidents: owners obtaining dogs, and maintaining them as resident dogs outside of the household for purposes other than as family pets (i.e. guarding/ protection, fighting, intimidation/ status); owners failing to humanely contain, control and maintain their dogs (chained dogs, loose roaming dogs, cases of abuse/neglect); owners failing to knowledgeably supervise interaction between children and dogs; and owners failing to spay or neuter resident dogs not used for competition, show, or in a responsible breeding program.[4]

Focusing on breed or phenotype diverts attention from strategies veterinarians and other animal experts have consistently identified as contributing to humane and safer communities.

BREED LABELING AND VETERINARY PRACTICE

In an environment of breed discrimination, the breed identification of a dog can have serious consequences with municipal authorities, animal shelters, landlords, and insurers, all of which will compromise the bond between a family and their dogs. Ordinances may obligate owners with expensive special housing and containment requirements. Owners may even be forced to choose between sending a beloved family pet away, or surrendering it to be killed.

Veterinarians who attempt to visually identify the breeds that might make up a dog do not derive any benefit from this activity, while the client may hold the veterinarians to the same professional standard as they would with respect to the delivery of medical services.

It is impossible to breed label dogs of unknown origin and genetics solely on the basis of their appearance. There is so much behavioral variability within each breed, and even more within breed mixes, that we cannot reliably predict a dog's behavior or suitability based on breed alone. Each dog is an individual.[19] Owners may be influenced as to what behavior to expect from their dog, based upon breed stereotypes.[20] Veterinarians must take the lead, and free themselves from stereotypes, in order to better serve their clients, their clients' animals, and society.

Jane Berkey, President
Animal Farm Foundation, Inc.

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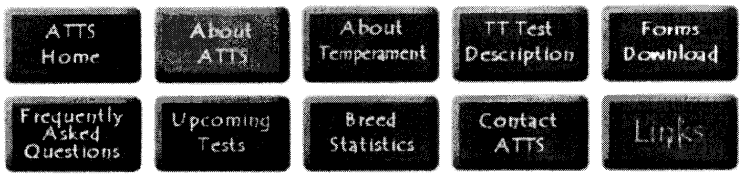
NCRC National Canine Research Council

Preserving the Human-Canine Bond



General information about the American Temperament Test Society, Inc. (ATTS)

The American Temperament Test Society, Inc. (ATTS) is a national not-for-profit organization (registered in the state of Missouri) for the promotion of uniform temperament evaluation of purebred and spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs.

ATTS was established to:

- Provide for a uniform national program of temperament testing of purebred and spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs.
- Conduct seminars to disseminate information to dog owners, dog breeders and evaluators (testers) concerning dog psychology, motivation, reaction and other aspects of temperament testing.
- Recognize and award certificates to dogs that pass the requirements of the temperament evaluation.
- Work for the betterment of all breeds of dogs.
- Select, train, prepare and register temperament evaluators.

Our motto says all:

"A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY"

ATTS is the only non-profit organization that gives the TT (Temperament Tested) title for a dog. The TT, our logo and test procedures are copyrighted. The test is for all breeds and it is uniform throughout the country.

ATTS was founded by Alfons Ertel in 1977. The first test was held in September 1977; ATTS has held more than 960 tests as of December 31, 2003. The number of dogs tested as of December 2007 is 28,010 with 22,847 dogs earning a TT title. The average overall pass rate is 81.6 percent; the pass rate may vary for different breeds. The breed's temperament, training, health and age of the dog is taken into account. Minimum age for dogs to take the test is 18 months.

The test takes about 12 minutes to complete. The dog is on a loose six-foot (6') lead and three ATTS trained evaluators score the dog. Majority rules. Failure on any part of the test is recognized when a dog shows panic, strong avoidance without recovery or unprovoked aggression.

National breed clubs can request the list of their breed which earned the TT for the previous year by sending a request accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope. A request for a complete list of all dogs of any one breed which have earned a TT is available, but breeds which have more than five pages of dogs will need to cover the cost of copying and postage.

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Temperament test pass rate for pit bull breeds is as high or higher than the 82.4% pass rate for all breeds.

ATTS Breed Statistics

as of June 12, 2010

Page 1: Afghan Hound - Belgian Malinois

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
AFGHAN HOUND	162	117	45	72.2%
AIREDALE TERRIER	101	78	23	77.2%
AKBASH DOG	15	13	2	86.7%
AKITA	514	387	127	75.3%
ALAPAHA BLUE BLOOD BULLDOG	10	7	3	70.0%
ALASKAN KLEE KAI	2	1	1	50.0%
ALASKAN MALAMUTE	222	189	33	85.1%
AMERICAN BULLDOG	178	151	27	84.8%
AMERICAN ESKIMO	82	68	14	82.9%
AMERICAN FOXHOUND	2	2	0	100.0%
AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER	772	664	108	86.0%
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER	608	510	98	83.9%
AMERICAN TUNNEL TERRIER	2	2	0	100.0%
AMERICAN WATER SPANIEL	7	6	1	85.7%
ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG	31	25	6	80.6%
AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG	184	145	39	78.8%
AUSTRALIAN KELPIE	6	5	1	83.3%
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD	634	517	117	81.5%
AUSTRALIAN TERRIER	16	13	3	81.3%
AZAWAKH	1	1	0	100.0%
BASENJI	167	113	54	67.7%
BASSET HOUND	35	30	5	85.7%
BEAGLE	71	57	14	80.3%
BEARDED COLLIE	45	24	21	53.3%
BEAUCERON	19	15	4	78.9%
BEDLINGTON TERRIER	19	18	1	94.7%
BELGIAN LAEKENOIS	7	7	0	100.0%
BELGIAN MALINOIS	289	265	24	91.7%

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Page 2: Belgian Sheepdog - Cao de Fila de Sao Miguel

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
BELGIAN SHEEPDOG	486	391	95	80.5%
BELGIAN TERVUREN	466	372	94	79.8%
BERGER BLANC SWISS	0	0	0	0.0%
BERGER PICARD	2	2	0	100.0%
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG	176	150	26	85.2%
BICHON FRISE	30	23	7	76.7%
BLACK AND TAN COONHOUND	13	13	0	100.0%
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER	56	52	4	92.9%
BLOODHOUND	32	23	9	71.9%
BLUE MOUNTAIN SHEPHERD	1	1	0	100.0%
BLUETICK COONHOUND	2	2	0	100.0%
BOERBOEL	14	14	0	100.0%
BOLOGNESE	1	1	0	100.0%
BORDER COLLIE	265	215	50	81.1%
BORDER TERRIER	120	109	11	90.8%
BORZOI	103	92	11	89.3%
BOSTON TERRIER	65	55	10	84.6%
BOUVIER DES FLANDRES	893	759	134	85.0%
BOXER	418	351	67	84.0%
BOYKIN SPANIEL	2	2	0	100.0%
BRIARD	368	299	69	81.3%
BRITTANY SPANIEL	116	105	11	90.5%
BRUSSELS GRIFFON	11	10	1	90.9%
BULL TERRIER	73	66	7	90.4%
BULLDOG	134	94	40	70.1%
BULLMASTIFF	129	102	27	79.1%
CAIRN TERRIER	49	36	13	73.5%
CANAAN DOG	4	3	1	75.0%
CANE CORSO	96	79	17	82.3%
CAO DE FILA DE SAO MIGUEL	3	2	1	66.7%

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Page 3: Cardigan Welsh Corgi - Dogo Canario

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
CARDIGAN WELSH CORGI	70	55	15	78.6%
CAROLINA DOG	2	2	0	100.0%
CATAHOULA LEOPARD DOG	12	9	3	75.0%
CAUCASIAN OVCHARKA	7	6	1	85.7%
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL	53	44	9	83.0%
CENTRAL ASIAN SHEPHERD	11	10	1	90.9%
CHART POLSKI	1	1	0	100.0%
CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER	108	93	15	86.1%
CHIHUAHUA	38	27	11	71.1%
CHINESE CRESTED	33	25	8	75.8%
CHINESE SHAR-PEI	210	149	61	71.0%
CHINOOK	8	6	2	75.0%
CHOW CHOW	98	70	28	71.4%
CLUMBER SPANIEL	12	10	2	83.3%
COCKER SPANIEL	227	186	41	81.9%
COLLIE	846	674	172	79.7%
CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER	174	159	15	91.4%
DACHSHUND (MINIATURE LONGHAIRED)	25	22	3	88.0%
DACHSHUND (MINIATURE SMOOTH)	33	26	7	78.8%
DACHSHUND (MINIATURE WIREHAIRED)	24	20	4	83.3%
DACHSHUND (STANDARD LONGHAIR)	34	25	9	73.5%
DACHSHUND (STANDARD SMOOTH)	48	33	15	68.8%
DACHSHUND (STANDARD WIREHAIRED)	30	25	5	83.3%
DALMATIAN	329	271	58	82.4%
DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER	7	5	2	71.4%
DOBERMAN PINSCHER	1,574	1,222	352	77.6%
DOGO ARGENTINO	13	12	1	92.3%
DOGO CANARIO	3	3	0	100.0%

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Page 4: Dogue de Bordeaux - Havanese

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
DOGUE DE BORDEAUX	75	55	20	73.3%
DUTCH SHEPHERD	11	11	0	100.0%
ENGLISH BULL TERRIER	1	1	0	100.0%
ENGLISH BULLDOG	0	0	0	0.0%
ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL	70	65	5	92.9%
ENGLISH FOXHOUND	3	2	1	66.7%
ENGLISH JACK RUSSELL TERRIER	3	3	0	100.0%
ENGLISH MASTIFF	2	2	0	100.0%
ENGLISH PITBULL	1	0	1	0.0%
ENGLISH POINTER	1	1	0	100.0%
ENGLISH SETTER	25	20	5	80.0%
ENGLISH SHEPERD	6	6	0	100.0%
ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL	146	123	23	84.2%
ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG	1	1	0	100.0%
FIELD SPANIEL	9	7	2	77.8%
FILA BRASILEIRO	13	10	3	76.9%
FINNISH LAPPHUND	7	4	3	57.1%
FINNISH SPITZ	10	7	3	70.0%
FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER	86	79	7	91.9%
FRENCH BULLDOG	28	27	1	96.4%
GERMAN PINSCHER	16	14	2	87.5%
GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG	3,038	2,559	479	84.2%
GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER	125	95	30	76.0%
GERMAN WIREHAIRED POINTER	17	14	3	82.4%
GIANT SCHNAUZER	253	193	60	76.3%
GOLDEN RETRIEVER	746	631	115	84.6%
GORDON SETTER	67	56	11	83.6%
GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN	1	1	0	100.0%
GREAT DANE	275	219	56	79.6%
GREAT PYRENEES	140	118	22	84.3%
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG	240	195	45	81.3%
GREYHOUND	66	54	12	81.8%
HAVANESE	10	8	2	80.0%

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Page 5: Hovawart - Miniature Bull Terrier

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
HOVAWART	17	16	1	94.1%
IBIZAN HOUND	32	29	3	90.6%
ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG	2	2	0	100.0%
IRISH GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER	2	1	1	50.0%
IRISH SETTER	142	128	14	90.1%
IRISH TERRIER	10	8	2	80.0%
IRISH WATER SPANIEL	28	25	3	89.3%
IRISH WOLFHOUND	98	88	10	89.8%
ITALIAN GREYHOUND	50	41	9	82.0%
JACK RUSSELL TERRIER	63	53	10	84.1%
JAPANESE CHIN	5	5	0	100.0%
KARELIAN BEAR DOG	3	3	0	100.0%
KEESHOND	82	66	16	80.5%
KERRY BLUE TERRIER	49	36	13	73.5%
KING SHEPHERD	1	1	0	100.0%
KOMONDOR	10	9	1	90.0%
KOREAN JINDO	1	1	0	100.0%
KUVASZ	47	36	11	76.6%
LABRADOR RETRIEVER	763	704	59	92.3%
LAKELAND TERRIER	8	6	2	75.0%
LEONBERGER	16	15	1	93.8%
LHASA APSO	27	19	8	70.4%
LOWCHEN	12	9	3	75.0%
LURCHER	5	5	0	100.0%
MAGYAR AGAR	1	1	0	100.0%
MALTESE	16	13	3	81.3%
MANCHESTER TERRIER	51	45	6	88.2%
MASTIFF	177	149	28	84.2%
MINIATURE BULL TERRIER	11	11	0	100.0%

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Page 6: Miniature Pinscher - Pungsan

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
MINIATURE PINSCHER	53	43	10	81.1%
MINIATURE POODLE	68	53	15	77.9%
MINIATURE SCHNAUZER	111	87	24	78.4%
MIXED BREED	968	832	136	86.0%
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF	15	10	5	66.7%
NEWFOUNDLAND	174	152	22	87.4%
NORFOLK TERRIER	14	13	1	92.9%
NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND	121	90	31	74.4%
NORWICH TERRIER	14	10	4	71.4%
NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVER	22	15	7	68.2%
OLD ENGLISH BULL DOGGE	5	4	1	80.0%
OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG	47	36	11	76.6%
OTTERHOUND	10	7	3	70.0%
PAPILLON	85	68	17	80.0%
PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER	10	10	0	100.0%
PATTERDALE TERRIER	3	2	1	66.7%
PEKINGESE	15	14	1	93.3%
PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI	200	157	43	78.5%
PERRO DE PRESA CANARIO	1	1	0	100.0%
PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN	9	8	1	88.9%
PHARAOH HOUND	52	42	10	80.8%
POINTER	19	17	2	89.5%
POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG	1	1	0	100.0%
POLSKI OWCZAREK NIZINNY	10	5	5	50.0%
POMERANIAN	33	25	8	75.8%
PORTUGUESE WATER DOG	154	120	34	77.9%
PRESA CANARIO	30	27	3	90.0%
PUG	44	40	4	90.9%
PULI	24	22	2	91.7%
PUNGSAN	2	2	0	100.0%

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ATTS Breed Statistics

as of June 12, 2010

Page 7: Pyrenean Shepherd - Swedish Vallhund

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
PYRENEAN SHEPHERD	1	1	0	100.0%
RAT TERRIER	19	15	4	78.9%
REDBONE COONHOUND	5	5	0	100.0%
RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK	424	358	66	84.4%
ROTTWEILER	5,357	4,470	887	83.4%
RUSSO - EUROPEAN LAIKA	2	2	0	100.0%
SAINT BERNARD	48	40	8	83.3%
SALUKI	61	42	19	68.9%
SAMOYED	282	224	58	79.4%
SCHIPPERKE	111	102	9	91.9%
SCOTTISH DEERHOUND	34	29	5	85.3%
SCOTTISH TERRIER	33	21	12	63.6%
SEALYHAM TERRIER	1	1	0	100.0%
SHETLAND SHEEPDOG	491	334	157	68.0%
SHIBA INU	25	16	9	64.0%
SHIH TZU	41	32	9	78.0%
SHILOH SHEPHERD	25	20	5	80.0%
SIBERIAN HUSKY	295	257	38	87.1%
SILKEN WINDHOUND	1	1	0	100.0%
SILKY TERRIER	19	14	5	73.7%
SKYE TERRIER	8	3	5	37.5%
SLOUGHI	1	1	0	100.0%
SMOOTH FOX TERRIER	55	42	13	76.4%
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER	36	26	10	72.2%
SPINONE ITALIANO	5	2	3	40.0%
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER	115	103	12	89.6%
STANDARD POODLE	243	209	34	86.0%
STANDARD SCHNAUZER	60	40	20	66.7%
SUSSEX SPANIEL	4	4	0	100.0%
SWEDISH VALLHUND	1	1	0	100.0%

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ATTS Breed Statistics

as of June 12, 2010

Page 8: Texas Heeler - Yugoslavian Tricolor Hound; Totals

Breed Name	*Tested*	*Passed*	*Failed*	*Percent*
TEXAS HEELER	1	1	0	100.0%
TIBETAN KYAPSO	1	1	0	100.0%
TIBETAN MASTIFF	13	5	8	38.5%
TIBETAN SPANIEL	12	11	1	91.7%
TIBETAN TERRIER	14	8	6	57.1%
TOSA	3	3	0	100.0%
TOY FOX TERRIER	9	7	2	77.8%
TOY MANCHESTER TERRIER	14	13	1	92.9%
TOY POODLE	51	42	9	82.4%
TREEING FEIST	2	1	1	50.0%
TREEING WALKER COONHOUND	8	5	3	62.5%
VIZSLA	47	39	8	83.0%
WEIMARANER	215	173	42	80.5%
WELSH SHEEPDOG	1	1	0	100.0%
WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL	6	6	0	100.0%
WELSH TERRIER	37	29	8	78.4%
WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER	60	53	7	88.3%
WHIPPET	193	165	28	85.5%
WHITE SHEPHERD	21	17	4	81.0%
WIRE FOX TERRIER	18	15	3	83.3%
XOLOITZCUINTLI	4	3	1	75.0%
YORKSHIRE TERRIER	40	33	7	82.5%
YUGOSLAVIAN TRICOLOR HOUND	1	1	0	100.0%
TOTALS	30,468	25,109	5,359	82.4%

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ATTS Breed Statistics

as of June 12, 2010

Page 8: Texas Heeler - Yugoslavian Tricolor Hound; Totals

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Scientific research studies that found spaying and neutering do not reduce aggression in dogs

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Michelle Bamberger, MS, DVM, and Katherine A. Houpt, VMD, PhD, DACVB
Signalment factors, comorbidity, and trends in behavior diagnoses in dogs: 1,644 cases (1991–2001)
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol 229, No. 10, November 15, 2006

Behavioral assessment of child-directed canine aggression
Ilana R Reisner, Frances S Shofer, Michael L Nance
Injury Prevention 2007; 13:348–351

Deborah L. Duffy, Ph.D., and James A. Serpell, Ph.D., Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
Non-reproductive Effects of Spaying and Neutering on Behavior in Dogs
Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Non-Surgical Contraceptive Methods for Pet Population Control, 2006

Anthony L. Podberscek, James A. Serpell
Animal Welfare and Human-Animal Interactions Group, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, Department of Clinical Studies, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.
Applied Animal Behaviour Science 47 (1996) 75-89
The English Cocker Spaniel: preliminary findings on aggressive behaviour

V. O'Farrell and E. Peachey
Behavioural effects of ovario-hysterectomy on bitches
Small Animal Clinic, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1QH
Journal of Small Animal Practice (1990) 31, 595-598

Hyeon H. Kim a, Seong C. Yeon a,, Katherine A. Houpt b, Hee C. Lee
Hong H. Chang a, Hyo J. Lee
Institute of Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju 660-701, Republic of Korea
Animal Behaviour Clinic, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-6401, USA
Effects of ovariohysterectomy on reactivity in German Shepherd dogs
The Veterinary Journal 172 (2006) 154–159

PRESENTATION SUMMARY & POWERPOINT

Non-reproductive Effects of Spaying and Neutering on Behavior in Dogs

Deborah L. Duffy, Ph.D., and James A. Serpell, Ph.D., Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Although there are scattered reports in the literature of apparently adverse effects of spaying and neutering on canine behavior, there are very few quantitative studies and most of these have employed behavioral measures of unknown reliability and validity.

The present study used the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ)© to investigate the impact of spaying/neutering in various dog populations, including (1) a random sample of 1,552 dogs belonging to 11 common breeds and (2) a convenience sample of over 6,000 dogs of various breeds recruited via an online survey. The C-BARQ is a reliable, standardized method for evaluating and screening dogs for the presence and severity of behavioral problems. It was developed by behavioral researchers at the University of Pennsylvania (Hsu and Serpell, 2003) and consists of a 101-item questionnaire that is simple to use, takes about 15 minutes to fill out, and can be completed by anyone who is reasonably familiar with the dog's typical responses to ordinary, day-to-day events and stimuli. The C-BARQ is currently the only existing behavioral assessment instrument of its kind to be thoroughly tested for reliability and validity on large samples of dogs of various breeds. This process has resulted in the identification of the following 13 distinct behavioral factors or traits that are common to the majority of dogs, regardless of breed, age, sex or neuter status:

1. **Stranger-directed aggression:** Dog shows threatening or aggressive responses to strangers approaching or invading the dog's or the owner's personal space, territory, or home range.

2. **Owner-directed aggression:** Dog shows threatening or aggressive responses to the owner or other members of the household when challenged, manhandled, stared at, stepped over, or when approached while in possession of food or objects.

3. **Dog-directed fear/aggression:** Dog shows fearful and/or aggressive responses when approached directly by unfamiliar dogs.

4. **Familiar dog aggression:** Threatening or aggressive responses during competition for resources with other (familiar) dog(s) in the household.

5. **Stranger-directed fear:** Fearful or wary responses when approached directly by strangers.

6. **Nonsocial fear:** Fearful or wary responses to sudden or loud noises, traffic, and unfamiliar objects and situations.

7. **Separation-related behavior:** Vocalizes and/or engages in destructive behavior when separated from the owner, often accompanied or preceded by behavioral and autonomic signs of anxiety, including restlessness, loss of appetite, trembling, and excessive salivation.

8. **Attachment and attention-seeking:** Maintains close proximity to the owner or other members of the household, solicits affection or attention, and becomes agitated when the owner gives attention to third parties.

9. **Trainability:** Shows willingness to attend to the owner, obeys simple commands, fetches objects, responds positively to correction, and ignores distracting stimuli.

10. **Chasing:** Pursues cats, birds, and other small animals, given the opportunity.

11. **Excitability:** Strong reaction to potentially exciting or arousing events, such as going for walks or car trips, doorbells, arrival of visitors, and the owner arriving home; difficulty settling down after such events.

12. **Touch sensitivity:** Fearful or wary responses to potentially painful procedures, including bathing, grooming, claw-clipping, and veterinary examinations.

13. **Energy level:** Highly energetic, boisterous, and/or playful behavior.

The results of the study suggest that spayed female dogs tend to be more aggressive toward their owners and to strangers than intact females, but that these effects of spaying on behavior appear to be highly breed-specific. Contrary to popular belief, the study found little evidence that castration was an effective treatment for aggressive behavior in male dogs, and may exacerbate other behavioral problems. Further research will be needed to clarify the relationship between age of spaying/neutering and these apparent effects on behavior.

Reference

Hsu, Y., and Serpell, J.A. 2003. "Development and validation of a questionnaire for measuring behavior and temperament traits in pet dogs." *J. Amer. Vet. Med. Assoc., 223:* 1293-1300.

Session I: Non-reproductive Effects of Spaying and Neutering
Effects on Behavior
By Dr. Deborah Duffy

BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF SPAYING/NEUTERING IN DOMESTIC DOGS

Deborah L. Duffy, Ph.D.
James A. Serpell, Ph.D.

Center for the Interaction of Animals & Society
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

OFTEN CITED BEHAVIORAL REASONS TO SPAY/NEUTER A PET:

(from websites of veterinary clinics, humane societies, trainers & animal shelters)

"Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions."

"Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered."

"Female dogs, like males, have an increased risk of aggression if left intact."

"It is true that unneutered dogs are often more aggressive and territorial (urine marking, fighting), but these traits should not be confused with loyalty and protection of their home and family."

"The only behavior changes that are observed after neutering relate to behaviors influenced by male hormones."

"..any (behavioral) change would be for the better. Altered pets are less aggressive toward other dogs and cats, are less likely to urine mark and wander, and generally have better personalities."

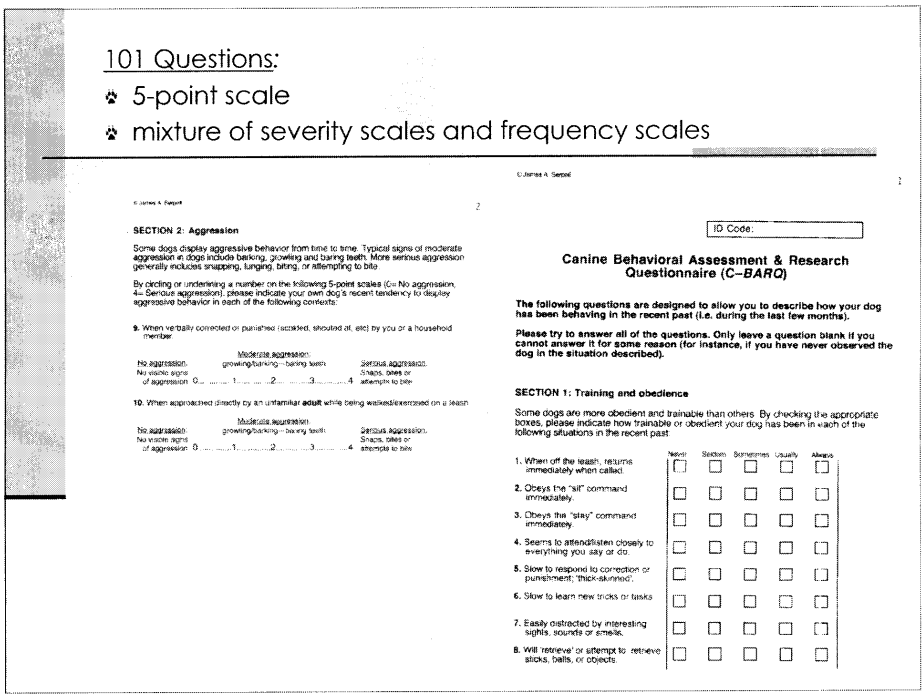
QUESTIONS:

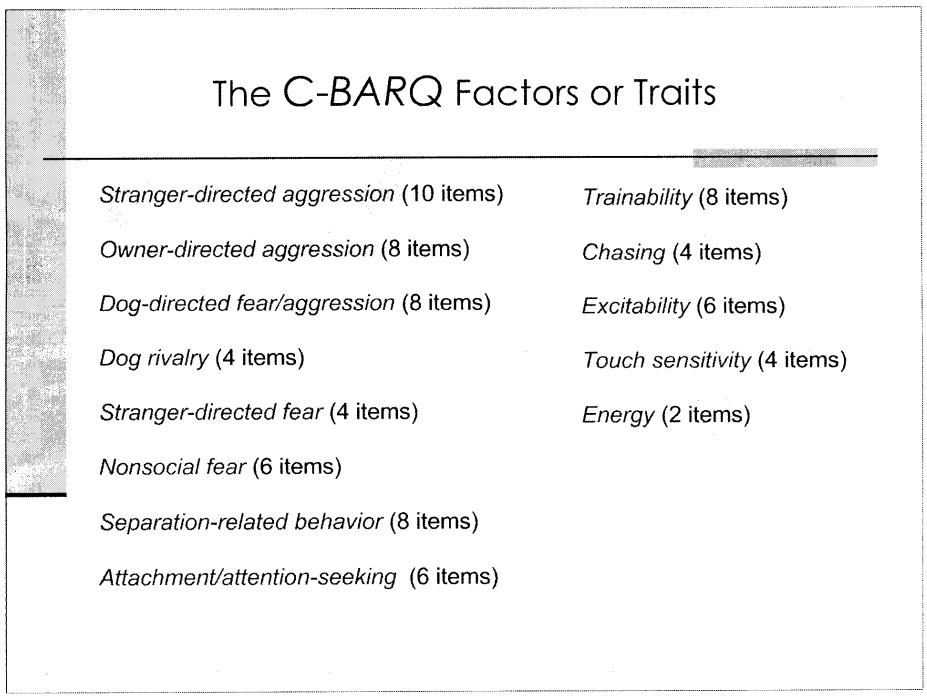
- What effects does spaying/neutering have on non-reproductive behaviors?
- Sex differences?
- Breed differences?

C-BARQ

Canine Behavioral Assessment & Research Questionnaire (*C-BARQ*)

http://www.vet.upenn.edu/cbarq/


101 Questions:
5-point scale
mixture of severity scales and frequency scales
SECTION 2: Aggression
Some dogs display aggressive behavior from time to time. Typical signs of moderate aggression in dogs include barking, growling and baring teeth. More serious aggression generally includes snapping, lunging, biting, or attempting to bite.
By circling or underlining a number on the following 5-point scales (0= No aggression, 4= Serious aggression), please indicate your own dog's recent tendency to display aggressive behavior in each of the following contexts:
9. When verbally corrected or punished (scolded, shouted at, etc) by you or a household member
Moderate aggression:
No aggression
No visible signs of aggression 0 ... 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4
growling/barking – baring teeth
Serious aggression:
Snaps, bites or attempts to bite
10. When approached directly by an unfamiliar adult while being walked/exercised on a leash
Moderate aggression:
No aggression
No visible signs of aggression 0 ... 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4
growling/barking – baring teeth
Serious aggression:
Snaps, bites or attempts to bite
ID Code:
Canine Behavioral Assessment & Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ)
The following questions are designed to allow you to describe how your dog has been behaving in the recent past (i.e. during the last few months).
Please try to answer all of the questions. Only leave a question blank if you cannot answer it for some reason (for instance, if you have never observed the dog in the situation described).
SECTION 1: Training and obedience
Some dogs are more obedient and trainable than others. By checking the appropriate boxes, please indicate how trainable or obedient your dog has been in each of the following situations in the recent past:
Never
Seldom
Sometimes
Usually
Always
1. When off the leash, returns immediately when called.
2. Obeys the "sit" command immediately.
3. Obeys the "stay" command immediately.
4. Seems to attend/listen closely to everything you say or do.
5. Slow to respond to correction or punishment; 'thick-skinned'.
6. Slow to learn new tricks or tasks.
7. Easily distracted by interesting sights, sounds or smells.
8. Will 'retrieve' or attempt to retrieve sticks, balls, or objects.


The C-BARQ Factors or Traits
Stranger-directed aggression (10 items)
Owner-directed aggression (8 items)
Dog-directed fear/aggression (8 items)
Dog rivalry (4 items)
Stranger-directed fear (4 items)
Nonsocial fear (6 items)
Separation-related behavior (8 items)
Attachment/attention-seeking (6 items)
Trainability (8 items)
Chasing (4 items)
Excitability (6 items)
Touch sensitivity (4 items)
Energy (2 items)

Miscellaneous C-BARQ Items

Item 78: Escaping/roaming
Item 79: Rolling in scent
Item 80: Coprophagia (eating feces)
Item 81: Chewing objects
Item 82: Mounting
Item 83: Food begging
Item 84: Food stealing
Item 85: Fear of stairs
Item 86: Pulling on leash
Item 87: Marking with urine
Item 88: Submissive/emotional urination
Item 89: Separation urination
Item 90: Separation defecation
Item 91: Hyperactivity
Item 94: Staring (obsessive)
Item 95: Snapping at flies (obsessive)
Item 96: Tail-chasing
Item 97: Shadow/light-chasing
Item 98: Barking
Item 99: Autogrooming (self)
Item 100: Allogrooming (others)
Item 101: Other abnormal/stereotypic

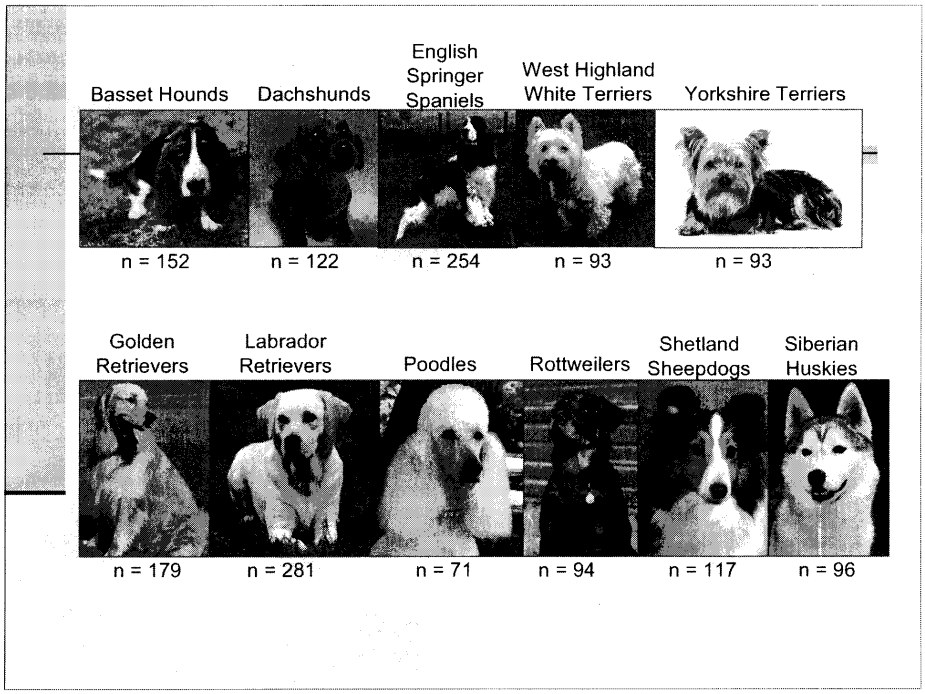
Random Sample Survey

Respondents:

- 1,552 dog owners (breed club members)

Dogs

- Age: ≥ 1 year old (mean 6 years, Std.dev. 3.2 yrs)
- Sex: Male:Female ratio = 1:1
- 40% Spayed/Neutered



Reasons for Spaying/Neutering:

	Percent
Birth Control	41.8
Required by Shelter/Breeder	2.2
Control/Prevent Behavior Problems	18.1
Control/Prevent Health Problems	31.4
Recommended by Veterinarian	.5
Other	6.0

Session I: Non-reproductive Effects of Spaying and Neutering
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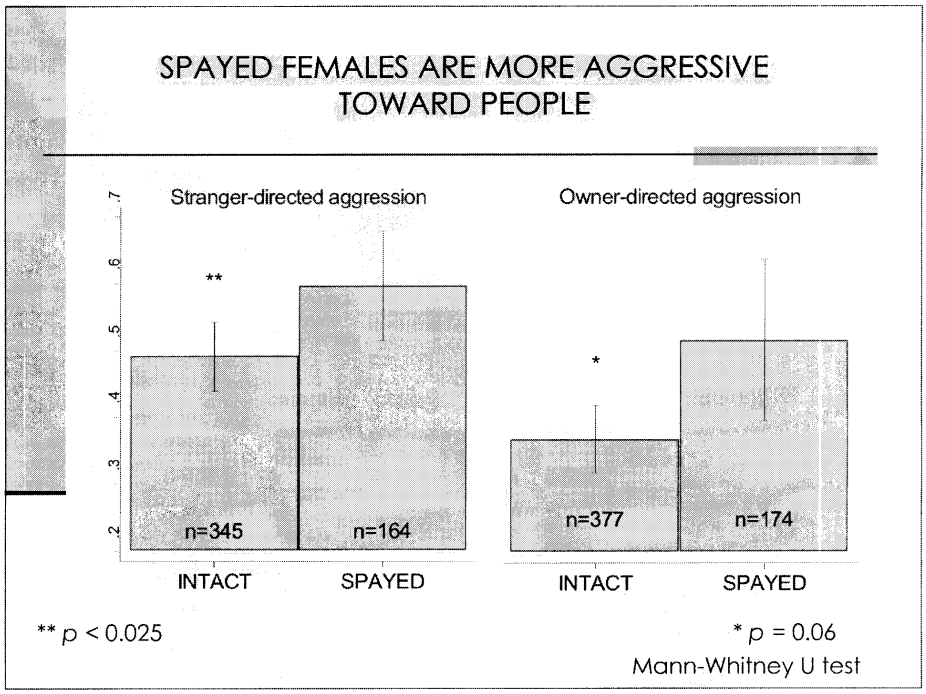

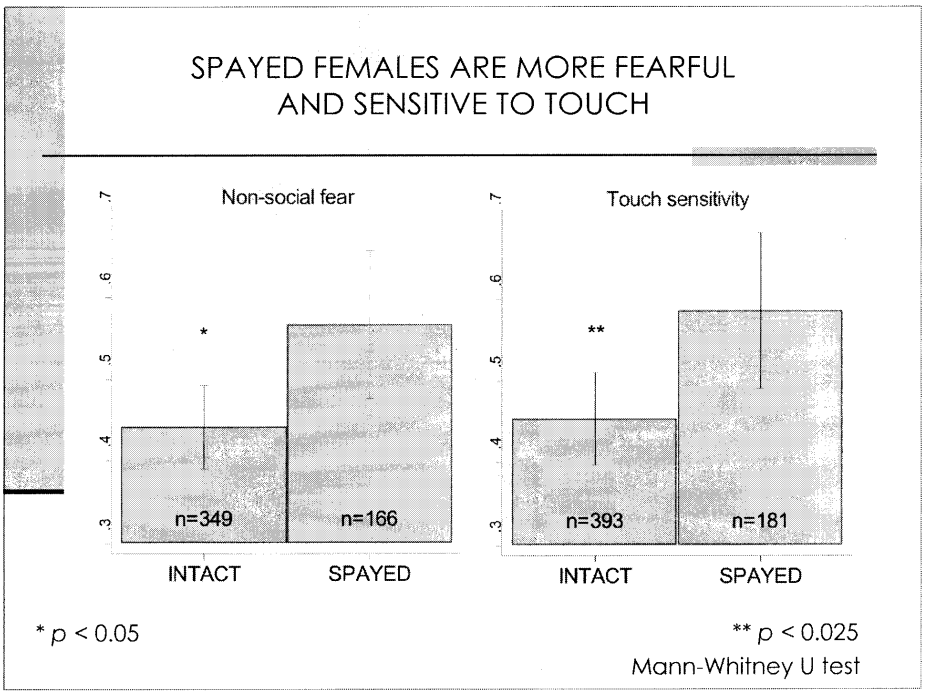

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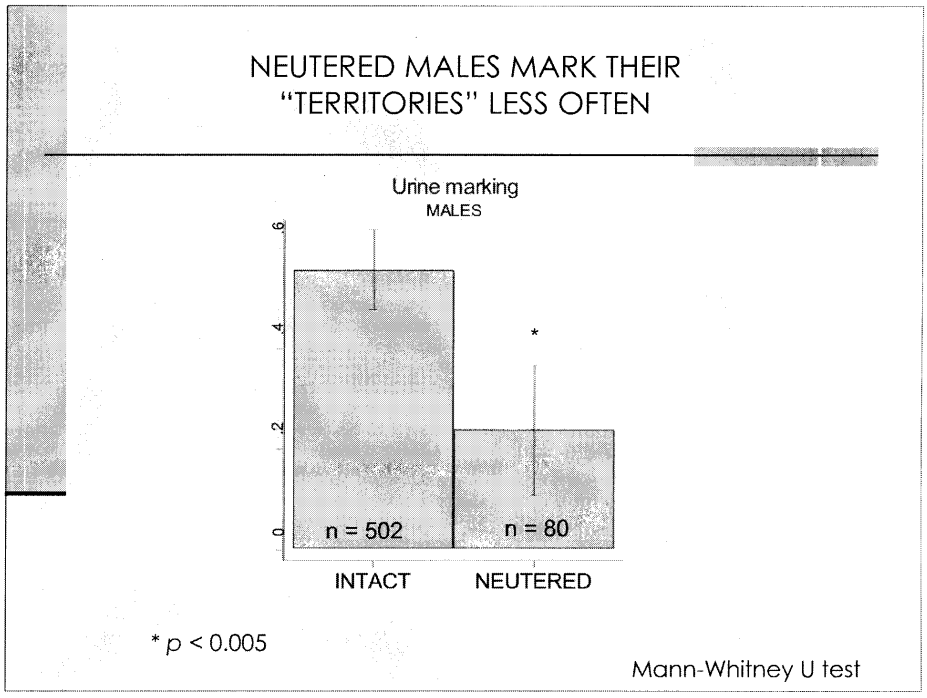

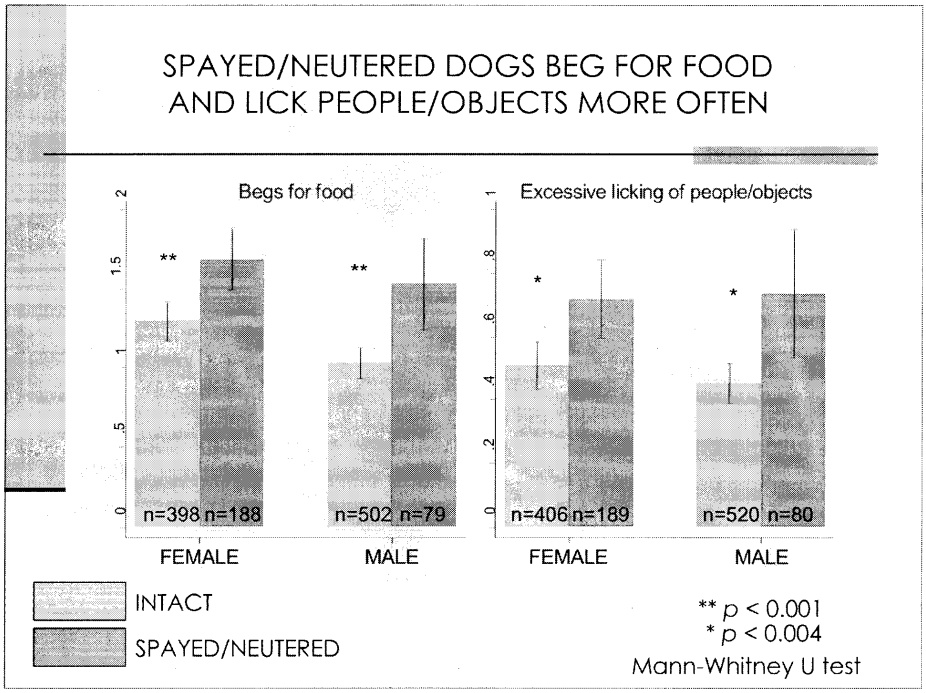

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