

[Home](#) > [List of Issues](#) > [Table of Contents](#) > [Communication Patterns Within a Group of Shelter Dogs and Implications for Their Welfare](#)

[Browse journal](#)

[View all volumes and issues](#)

[Current issue](#)

[Most read articles](#)

[Most cited articles](#)

[Authors and submissions](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Journal information](#)

Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science

Volume 16, Issue 2, 2013



Communication Patterns Within a Group of Shelter Dogs and Implications for Their Welfare

[Preview](#) [View full text](#) [Download full text](#)
[Free access](#)

DOI:

10.1080/10888705.2013.741001

Irena Petak^a

pages 118-139

Publishing models and article dates explained

Published online: 01 Apr 2013

Article Views: 443

Article usage statistics combine cumulative total PDF downloads and full-text HTML views from publication date (but no earlier than 25 Jun 2011, launch date of this website) to 21 Jun 2013. Article views are only counted from this site. Although these data are updated every 24 hours, there may be a 48-hour delay before the most recent numbers are available.

[Alert me](#)

- [TOC email alert](#)
- [TOC RSS feed](#)
- [Citation email alert](#)
- [Citation RSS feed](#)

Abstract

Keeping shelter dogs in groups provides them with a more socially and physically enriched environment, but eventually it may cause them stress. Understanding dogs' communication could help shelter staff recognize and prevent undesirable communicative patterns and encourage desirable ones.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine communication patterns in a group of dogs in a shelter. The observed dogs were engaged in different classes of dyadic and group interactions. Certain dogs were frequently initiators of dyadic interactions, and different dogs were the recipients. The predominant form of dyadic interactions was a neutral one, and aggressive behavior was rarely observed. The tendency of certain dogs to interact continuously may represent a nuisance for less social individuals. All of the dogs participated in 3 defined classes of group interactions. At the group level, the dogs frequently interact vocally or olfactorily. A major welfare problem may be very vocal dogs because their vocalizations are noisy and broadcast far-reaching signals. The frequency of some group interactions was reduced by the amount of time the dogs had in the shelter.

- View full text
- Download full text

Keywords

- dog,
- shelter,
- welfare,
- communication

Related

- .
- Add to shortlist
- Link

Permalink

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10888705.2013.741001>

- Download Citation
- Recommend to:
- A friend

- Information
- Full text
- References
- Reprints & permissions

Abstract

Jump to section

- Introduction
- MATERIALS AND METHODS
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Keeping shelter dogs in groups provides them with a more socially and physically enriched environment, but eventually it may cause them stress. Understanding dogs' communication could help shelter staff recognize and prevent undesirable communicative patterns and encourage desirable ones. Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine communication patterns in a group of dogs in a shelter. The observed dogs were engaged in different classes of dyadic and group interactions. Certain dogs were frequently initiators of dyadic interactions, and different dogs were the recipients. The predominant form of dyadic interactions was a neutral one, and aggressive behavior was rarely observed. The tendency of certain dogs to interact continuously may represent a nuisance for less social individuals. All of the dogs participated in 3 defined classes of group interactions. At the group level, the dogs frequently interact vocally or olfactorily. A major welfare problem may be very vocal dogs because their vocalizations are noisy and broadcast far-reaching signals. The frequency of some group interactions was reduced by the amount of time the dogs had in the shelter.

Keywords

- dog,
- shelter,
- welfare,
- communication

Introduction

Jump to section

- Introduction
- MATERIALS AND METHODS
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION