

An evaluation of an 8-week puppy test

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Puppy-tests

- Ideally should be done before choosing/buying a dog
- Should fit the dog to the buyer's expectations
- Should help the kennel owner to choose the correct buyer

- The test should predict the personality of the adult dog



Construction of the test

- 11 different situations
- 22 variables assessed
- 4 “global” assessments:
 - Activity during the test
 - Security/calmness during the test
 - Activity of puppy outside of the test
 - Activity of litter outside of the test

The components

- 1) Coming into the room, greeting a stranger
- 2) Human walks around the room, calls the puppy
- 3) Human sits on the floor, takes contact, pets
- 4) Lift up the puppy
- 5) Roll small ball
- 6) Large ball into room
- 7) Tug of war
- 8) Sound
- 9) Six different objects
- 10) Obstacle
- 11) Surface



The factors

4 factors:

- 1) Biting and play-cooperation w small ball
- 2) Reaction to novelty, big ball, sound, obstacles
- 3) Reaction to human
- 4) Following the human (only two measures)

740 puppies tested

Puppies and adult dogs

Australian shepherd

Groenendal/Malinois

Briard

Roughhaired collie

German shepherd

Boxer

Hovawart

Riesenschnauzer

Rottweiler

American staffordshire
terrier

Borderterrier

Weimaraner

Poodle

French bulldog

**Total of 197 dogs
42 litters**

The comparison - the Swedish dog mentality assessment

- 10 different test situations
- 33 variables registered on a Lichert scale
- Approx 1.5 years old
- Previous work: 5 personality factors
 - Curiosity/fearlessness
 - Sociability (towards humans)
 - Playfulness (tug of war)
 - Aggression
 - Chase-proneness



The bad news

Only one significant association:

Chase-proneness in DMA and chasing/biting small ball
in puppy test

The not so bad news...

Reaction to novelty in puppy => Playfulness (0.07)

Reaction to novelty in puppy => Chase (0.08)

Reaction to human => Curiosity/fearlessness (0.09)

Following human => Sociability (0.09)



The strange news

Security/calmness => aggression (0.001)

Activity outside of the test => aggression (0.01)



Work in progress...



Pinch of salt, or...

Work in progress...

Pinch of salt, or a mountain of it?



Thank you for your attention,
questions?