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EDUCATION

BIOLOGIST MASTER COURSE(MSC)

Eötvös Loránd University
2021-now

BIOLOGY BACHELOR COURSE (BSC)

Eötvös Loránd University
thesis: *Separation related behaviour in dogs: the effect of fear and frustration*
2017-2021

GRADUATION

Békásmegyeri Veres Péter Gimnázium
2008-2016

SPOKEN LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

intermediate (B2)

GERMAN

intermediate (B2)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS

2022 Stephen W. Kuffler Research Scholarship

PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS

2020 ELTE BTK Student Conference

2021 7th European Student Conference on Behaviour & Cognition

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Period: 2018-now

Institute: ELTE - Faculty of Science -Institute of Biology - Department of Ethology

Mentors: Dr. Pongrácz Péter, Lenkei Rita

Topic: *Separation related behaviour in dogs: the effect of fear and frustration, Attachment behaviour in dogs and intensively socialized wolves*

PUBLICATIONS

- Lenkei, R., Újváry, D., Bakos, V., & Faragó, T. (2020). Adult, intensively socialized wolves show features of attachment behaviour to their handler. *Scientific reports*, 10, 1-8.
- Marx, A., Lenkei, R., Pérez Fraga, P., Bakos, V., Kubinyi, E., & Faragó, T. (2021). Occurrences of non-linear phenomena and vocal harshness in dog whines as indicators of stress and ageing. *Scientific reports*, 11, 1-12.
- Lenkei, R., Faragó, T., Bakos, V., & Pongrácz, P. (2021). Separation-related behavior of dogs shows association with their reactions to everyday situations that may elicit frustration or fear. *Scientific reports*, 11, 1-13.



RESEARCH INTEREST

Companion dogs experience stress in their owner's absence. This is a normal reaction to some extent, however, severe cases can cause behavioral problems. Due to the diverse manifestation of separation-related behavioral problems, we can assume that different signs indicate different inner states. Recently we established a model assuming that fearful dogs behave differently during separation than dogs that are more prone to frustration.

In this experiment we tested 45 companion dogs in an indoor separation test and in four additional behavior tests. Subjects were either assigned to the frustration tolerance tests or to the fearfulness tests. From each type, one test was non-social and the other was social. We used PCA for the assessment of dogs' behavior both in the separation and the behavior tests.

Because of the limited time of this presentation, I only would like to highlight a few of the most interesting results. Lets' see, whether the behavior of dogs in the asocial fearfulness test (where they were facing the remote toy crane) shows associations with their response to the separation.

We found a negative association between staring at the crane and whining at the door. This means that those dogs that were less afraid of the crane and gazed it a lot, are less likely showing fear reactions in the separation test.

This was further supported by another result, where gazing at the crane showed negative association with attempts to escape from the room during the separation test.

According to the results, depending on their behavior in the frustration or fear-eliciting tests, dogs behaved differently from each other also in the separation test.

Our findings are the first that experimentally verify the possible motivational background of dogs' reaction to separation, which may be a relevant factor in the treatment or even the prevention of this behavioral problem.

