Good Dog! Applications of Dog Science

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Good Dog! Applications of Dog Science
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The Problem
• 6 to 8 million dogs per year enter shelters
• Behavioral problems such as fear, aggression, or separation anxiety lead to dogs being taken to these shelters and/or euthanized (Rohlf and Toukhasti 2010).
• Exercise can alleviate some of these behavioral problem (Coppinger and Zuchotti 1999).

Potential Solution: Mental Stimulation
• What is Mental Stimulation:
  • Occupying the dogs mind to an extent that it does not require physical exercise (Milgram 2003).
• Computer Tasks:
  • Computer tasks will be modified as an application for owners
  • This application’s goal is to prevent behavioral problems.

Current Study
• Participants:
  • Dogs recruited from Paradise Pets dog daycare center in Bloomington, IL.
• Computer Training
  • Touch yellow box on screen with nose
• Data Collection
  • Thus far, we have been using Superlab as the framework for our computer tasks
  • Still in data collecting process

Discussion
• So Far
  Dogs have begun to learn the task with increasing accuracy and decreased food motivation
• Future Tasks
  Create more tasks/programs that will consist of selecting higher numbers or remembering objects
• Potential Findings
  Differences in performances between breeds could lead to further information about how each breed learns a new task (Rooney and Bradshaw 2006).

References
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