

The effect of time spent at a shelter on the occurrence of stereotypical behaviour in dogs

Summary

Time spent in animal shelters may increase stereotypical behaviours in dogs. The aim of the study was to determine the optimal adoption time to minimize stereotypies. The research was carried out at the Ciapkowo animal shelter in Gdynia, Poland, and included 36 dogs divided into four groups according to the duration of their stay at the shelter. Behavioural observations were carried out with special focus on stereotypical behaviour, taking into account behaviour in cages, in contact with people, and during walks. The highest rate of abnormal behaviours was noted in dogs that had been at the shelter for more than a year.

KEY WORDS: dogs / animal shelter / stereotypical behaviours