

Cognitive processes in the pig and the dog – a case study

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Summary

The material for the study was one domestic pig and two dogs. The aim of the study was to analyse and assess cognitive processes in animals undergoing training. The study was conducted using blue, green and yellow communication buttons with recorded commands and treats – courgette and apple for the pig and fish- and chicken-flavoured treats for the dog. Training played a significant role in shaping the behaviour of the animals taking part in the test. The total number of repetitions was twice as high in the dogs as in the pig. The animals solved a problem and made a choice after several attempts. The total duration of the attempts was shorter in the pig than in the dogs, while the duration of a single repetition was longer. The cognitive processes of the dogs and pig were somewhat different; the pig showed considerable independence during the test, while the dog was focused on the person conducting the test and that person's reactions. Tests using communication buttons and treats as a form of reward can be recommended for practical use during animal training.

KEY WORDS: dog, sensory organs, cognitive processes, pig