



# Behaviours and experiences as indicators of the result in a behavioural test for dogs



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## Background

The Swedish Armed Forces (SAF) needs 100 military and police working dogs a year. Nowadays SAF's kennel in Sollefteå produce about 50 suitable dogs a year.

Every dog conducts a behavioural test at an age of 15-18 month. The dogs get an Index value from the test. The higher the Index value the greater the chance for the dog to become a military working dog.

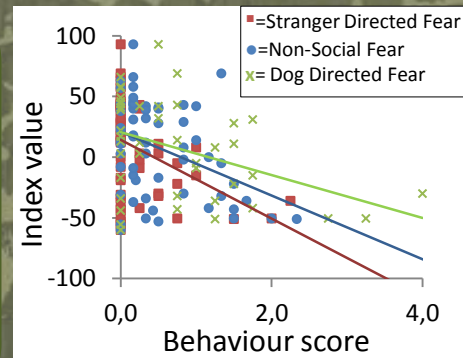
C-BARQ is a questionnaire which covers the behaviour of dogs. The questionnaire can be used to predict the behaviour of a dog.

## Aim

The aim of this study was to see if the results from the standardised behavioural test could be connected to C-BARQ.

## Conclusions

- The results from the use of C-BARQ can indicate the results of the behavioural test.
- Selective breeding for behaviours with positive correlation with Index value and against behaviours with negative correlation could be used to get more suitable dogs.

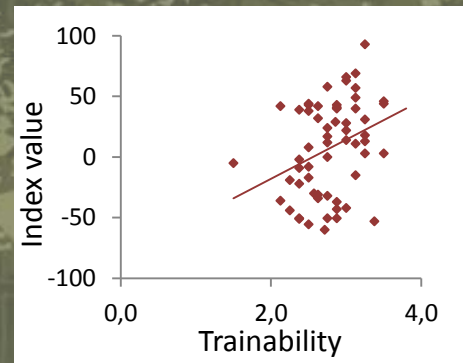


## Methods

Answered questionnaires and Index values from the behavioural test were collected from 59 potential military working dogs.

## Results

Negative correlations between the Index value and behaviours associated with Stranger Directed Fear ( $r=-0.40$ ,  $p=0.002$ ), Non-Social Fear ( $r=-0.39$ ,  $p=0.003$ ), and Dog Directed Fear ( $r=-0.41$ ,  $p=0.006$ ) were found.



Positive correlations were found between Index value and Trainability ( $r=0.32$ ,  $p=0.013$ ) and between Index value and how many hours the dog was left home alone per day ( $r=0.27$ ,  $p=0,043$ ).

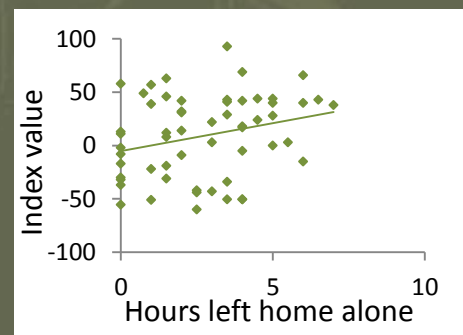


Photo: Åsa Wilsson