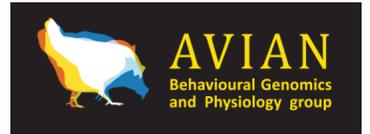




# Domestication's effect on dominance behaviour in chickens

Sara Olby

Supervisors: Per Jensen & Beatrix Agnvall  
IFM Biology, Linköping university



## Introduction

Domestication has altered several traits in animals. One of these traits is the social behaviour, which include dominance behaviour. However, little is known on how dominance behaviour has been affected by domestication.

## Aim

The aim is to see if the process of domestication, by breeding on fear of human, effects the dominance behaviour in red junglefowl.



Left: Junglefowl, Middle: Leghorn, Right: Broiler (photo: Anna-Carin Karlsson)

## Method

A 4<sup>th</sup> generation of red junglefowls selected on three levels of "fear of human" (low, intermediate and high) were tested in a dominance test. All birds were first tested in a control session, followed by a session with a resource in the arena.



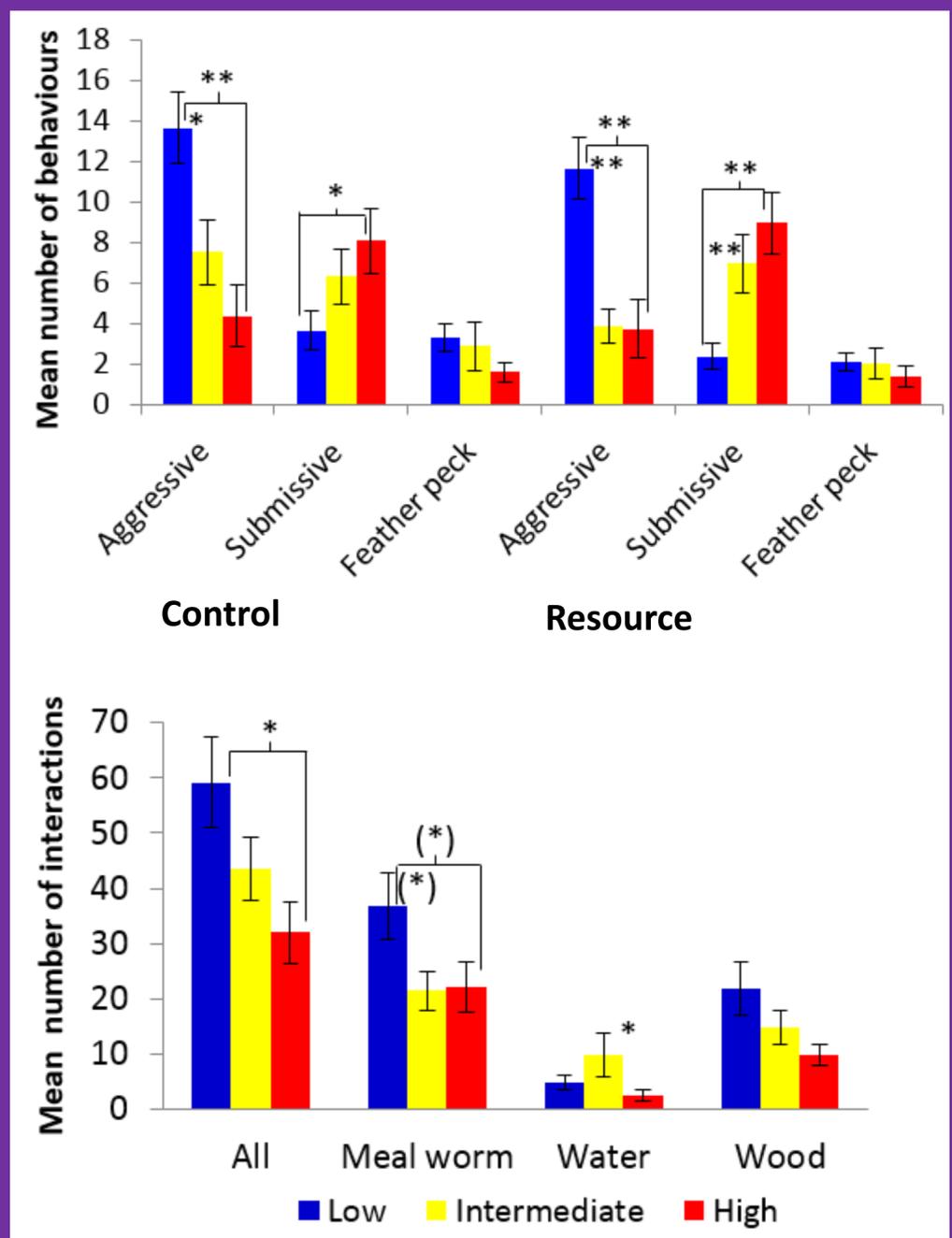
The resources used: meal worms, wood shavings and water

## Results

Low line birds showed most aggressive behaviours both in the control and resource session. They also interacted more with the resources presented.

## Conclusion

Breeding on fear of humans seems to alter social behaviour in chickens, leading to more dominant individuals.



Top: Mean of performed behaviours of all birds for all sessions. Bottom: Mean interactions with the resources for all birds. Error bars show S.E.M. \*P<0.05 \*\*P<0.01 (\*)P<0.1