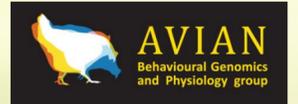


Breed-comparison of behavioural responses of dogs in test situations



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Background

Since the onset of the dog's domestication more than 400 breeds have arisen. Owing to a long process of breeding and the exposure to a variety of selective pressures these breeds show notable behavioural differences.

One approach to investigate behaviour in dogs is the BPH (Beteende- och personlighets-beskrivning Hund).

Aims

- To compare different breeds of dogs with regard to their behavioural responses in the BPH.
- To compare the BPH results with direct ethological recordings.

Methods

- 856 dogs of 27 breeds were compared on the basis of their BPH results.
- Video recordings of the BPH were used for a detailed behavioural coding of 64 dogs of 9 breeds.

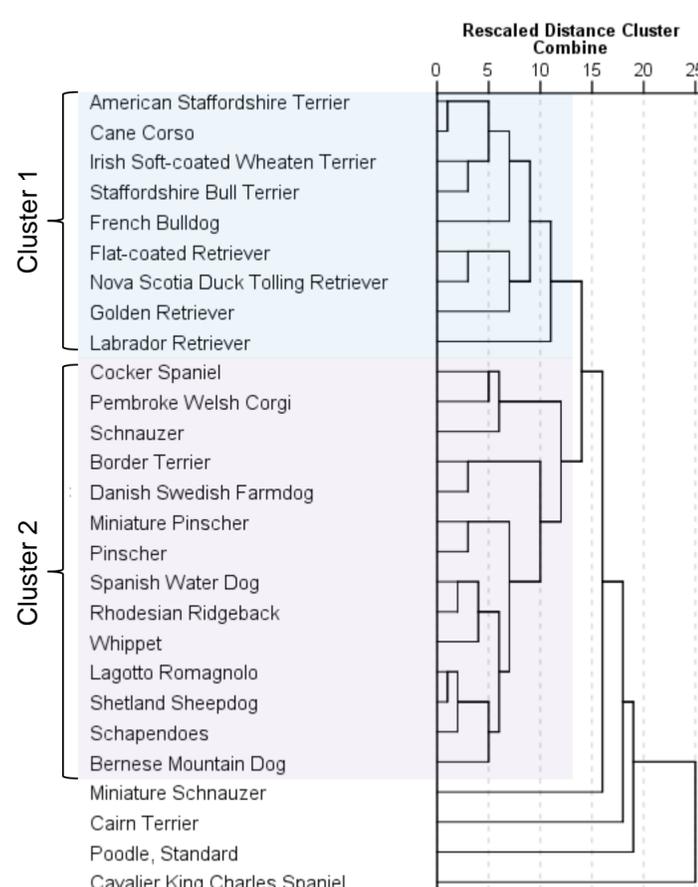


Results

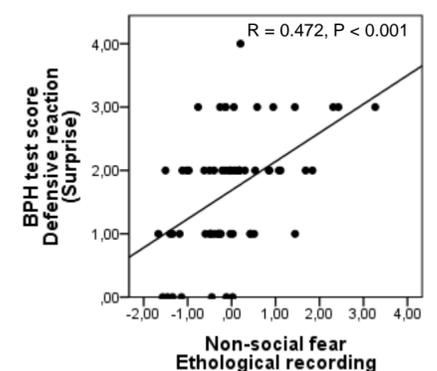
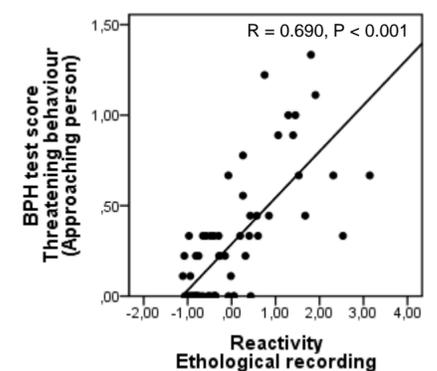
- Breeds showed significant differences in boldness ($H = 178.024$), playfulness ($H = 152.671$), stranger-directed fear ($H = 160.729$), aggression ($H = 96.302$), food commitment ($H = 104.009$), contact with owner/ test leader ($H = 53.978$), independence ($H = 63.857$) and hesitation ($H = 84.644$) ($P < 0.001$ for all).

Conclusions

- Breeds differ in the behaviour they show during the BPH.
- Current selection criteria might be important for the behavioural shaping of breeds.
- The BPH seems to be a valuable tool for describing behavioural variation in dogs.



Dendrogram showing the breeds' relationship according to a hierarchical cluster analysis on the basis of behavioural similarity between the breeds.



- Strong correlations between the BPH results and the direct ethological recordings were found.



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