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Title: Factors associated with long-term success in working police dogs

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Factors associated with long-term success in working police dogs

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Highlights

- Successful working UK police dogs differ in their temperament from withdrawn dogs
- Successful dogs show more energy and interest towards positive stimuli
- Successful dogs show more responsive to environmental cues
- Successful and unsuccessful dogs did not differ in their fearfulness
- Similar level of energy and interest found in other successful working dog profiles

Abstract

With increasing threats of terrorism, police and military detection dogs are of growing importance for protecting servicemen/women and society. However, a relatively high proportion of potential working dogs fail to make full operational status, or are later withdrawn from service. To date, research has focused primarily on factors which are associated with a dog's short term success, such as passing/failing certification after training. Rather than the more important outcome of working life expectancy. In this study, we used two validated instruments of temperament (Positive and Negative Affect Scale (PANAS) and Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS)) to identify factors associated with long-term working dog success. Active working UK police dogs (n=63) scored significantly higher on the trait "energy and interest" within PANAS and "responsiveness" within DIAS in

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