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Canine coprophagic behavior is influenced by coprophagic cohabitant

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## 8 ABSTRACT

9 Coprophagia is a common canine habit, although it is aversive for human beings. Despite  
10 absence of clinical risk to animals and their owners, this behavior may lead the owners to get  
11 rid of their dogs. The lack of information and effective corrective methods make it difficult  
12 for veterinary clinicians to contribute to eradication of this problem. The objective of this  
13 study was to evaluate nutritional, behavioral and hereditary aspects involved in the  
14 manifestation of coprophagia in dogs, the effectiveness of the most common corrective  
15 methods and the perception of owners about the subject through a questionnaire designed for  
16 coprophagic and non-coprophagic dogs' owners. Owners of seventy adult animals were  
17 interviewed, of which 42.8% (n = 30/70) were coprophagic and 57.1% (n = 40/70) were non-  
18 coprophagic. There was no difference between sex, habits, lifestyle, habitat, number of meals,  
19 nutritional background, commercial diet and reproductive status. However, development of  
20 coprophagia appears to be influenced by the presence of a coprophagic cohabitant.

21 *Keywords:* behavior, dog, eating disorder, feces, nutrition.

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