

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0168-1591(18)30450-7
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2018.08.002>
Reference: APPLAN 4688

To appear in: *APPLAN*

Received date: 1-12-2017
Revised date: 25-6-2018
Accepted date: 5-8-2018

Please cite this article as: Flint HE, Coe JB, Pearl DL, Serpell JA, Niel L, Effect of training for dog fear identification on dog owner ratings of fear in familiar and unfamiliar dogs, *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2018.08.002>

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Title:

Effect of training for dog fear identification on dog owner ratings of fear in familiar and unfamiliar dogs

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Highlights:

- A dog fear training tool was developed using behaviours owners could reliably recognize
- Owner ratings of dog fear were assessed in participants with and without training
- Training for dog fear identification improved recognition of dog fear in videos
- Training did not alter how owners rate fear in their own dogs using the C-BARQ

Abstract

Scientific studies often assess aspects of dog behaviour, such as fear, via owner reports. More information on how accurate these ratings are for dogs displaying different levels of fear would be valuable. The current study assessed which fear behaviours dog owners are able to reliably recognize and whether provision of training on recognition of fear alters participant ratings of fear in familiar and unfamiliar dogs. Dog owners (n=735) were asked to identify which dog fear behaviours were present/absent in a series of videos. This

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