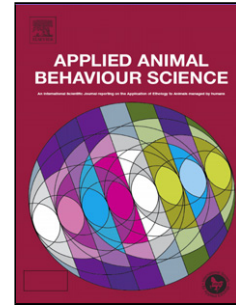


## Accepted Manuscript

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**Title**

Behavioural testing based breeding policy reduces the prevalence of fear and aggression related behaviour in Rottweilers

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**Highlights**

- Testing breeding dogs is a helpful policy for more sociable offspring
- Exclusion from studbook reduced fear and aggression in pedigree offspring
- Owners reported twice as much fear/aggression in look-a-likes than pedigrees
- Different types of fear and aggression showed direct associations

**Abstract**

Behavioural testing allows to exclude dogs that are fearful and aggressive from the breeding population, but relatively little is known about the effectiveness of such strategies in practice. From 2001 till 2009 parent purebred Dutch Rottweilers had to pass the Socially Acceptable Behaviour (SAB)-test for their offspring to obtain a pedigree certificate. We evaluated if this breeding policy of excluding fearful and aggressive Rottweilers, as diagnosed by the SAB-test, indeed reduced the prevalence of fear and

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