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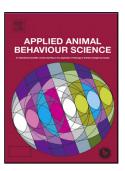
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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Homing age influences the prevalence of aggressive and avoidance-related behaviour in adult dogs

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#### **Highlights**

- A questionnaire study on problem behavior in adult dogs in Finland was conducted
- Age of homing from domestic environments and problem behaviors were associated
- Dogs homed after 8 weeks had higher prevalence of aggressive and avoidance behavior
- Homing dogs raised in a domestic environment no later than at 8 weeks is indicated

#### Abstract

Homing puppies before 8 weeks has been associated with lower instance of avoidance and types of aggression in adult dogs. The current study aimed to further assess the impact of homing age on these behaviours in adult dogs. Finnish dogs provide an interesting population for this further study, as based on the clinical experience of the co-authors, puppies in Finland are predominantly reared in domestic maternal

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