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Author: Anna Scandurra Paolo Mongillo Lieta Marinelli

Massimo Aria Biagio D'Aniello

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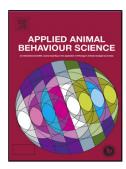
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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Conspecific observational learning by adult dogs in a training context
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3	Anna Scandurra <sup>1,2</sup> , Paolo Mongillo <sup>2</sup> , Lieta Marinelli <sup>2</sup> , Massimo Aria <sup>3</sup> and Biagio D'Aniello <sup>1*</sup>
4	
5	<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, University of Naples "Federico II", via Cinthia, Naples, Italy
6	<sup>2</sup> Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science, University of Padua, Legnaro, Padua,
7	Italy
8	<sup>3</sup> Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Naples "Federico II", via Cinthia, Naples,
9	Italy
10	
11	*Corresponding author Biagio D'Aniello: Department of Biology, University of Naples "Federico
12	II", via Cinthia, 80126 Naples, Italy. Tel.: +39 081 679177; fax: +39 081 679233.
13	E-mail address: biagio.daniello@unina.it.
14	
15	Abstract
16	The role of observational learning in dogs has drawn great interest from the scientific
17	community. However, only a few studies explored its potential use for training purposes. The aim
18	of the present study was to assess the potential benefit of conspecific observational learning in a dog
19	training context. Fifty adult Labrador retrievers were recruited at the Italian Water Rescue School.
20	Dogs were equally distributed between basic and advanced training level and assigned to
21	demonstration and control groups.
22	The experimental procedure consisted of two phases: Phase 1, intended to ascertain that dogs
23	
	could not perform the selected exercise when requested by their handlers; Phase 2, to assess
24	could not perform the selected exercise when requested by their handlers; Phase 2, to assess whether they would perform the same exercise after the observation of a conspecific demonstrator.

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