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USING AN OWNER-BASED QUESTIONNAIRE TO PHENOTYPE DOGS WITH SEPARATION-RELATED DISTRESS: DO OWNERS KNOW WHAT THEIR DOGS DO WHEN THEY ARE ABSENT?

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Accurate phenotyping is a critical component of any behavioral research. We compared owner responses to the C-BARQ section on separation-related behaviors with video footage of their dogs ( $n=31$ ). A focal animal continuous recording method was used to describe the behavior of dogs during the first 25 minutes after owners' departure. Nine dogs were recorded in the presence of one or two conspecifics, whereas 23 other dogs were alone. There was a significant moderate positive correlation between the separation-related behavior questionnaire score and the percentage of time exhibiting behaviors suggestive of anxiety ( $r_s = 0.438$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ). There was a similar moderate positive correlation between the questionnaire score and the first principal component score of recorded behaviors ( $r_s = 0.385$ ,  $P = 0.008$ ). Correlations between the questionnaire responses for individual behaviors and the occurrence of those behaviors on video were higher for the more apparent behaviors such as destruction. While the significant positive correlation between owner responses and the dog's behavior in the initial 25 minutes of being left alone is suggestive that owners may have an indicative knowledge of their dog's behavior during their absence, further work with more participants and repeated recordings is required.

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