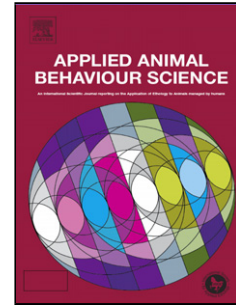


Accepted Manuscript

Title: A spatial discounting test to assess impulsivity in dogs

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PII: S0168-1591(18)30008-X
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2018.01.003>
Reference: APPLAN 4582

To appear in: *APPLAN*

Received date: 26-7-2017
Revised date: 16-12-2017
Accepted date: 7-1-2018

Please cite this article as: Brady, Karen, Hewison, Lynn, Wright, Hannah, Zulch, Helen, Cracknell, Nina, Mills, Daniel, A spatial discounting test to assess impulsivity in dogs. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2018.01.003>

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A spatial discounting test to assess impulsivity in dogs

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Highlights

- A Spatial Discounting Task (SDT) was developed to assess impulsivity in dogs.
- In adults Maximum Distance Travelled (MDT) in the SDT correlated with overall DIAS score (OQS).
- In young dogs, no significant relationship between the OQS and MDT was found.
- A simplified SDT for the field showed a significant relationship between MDT and OQS.
- The SDT is a useful tool for measuring impulsivity in adult dogs.

Abstract

In domestic dog's trait impulsivity can be measured psychometrically using the Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS) and experimentally using a temporal discounting paradigm which requires substantial training. A Spatial Discounting Task (SDT) was developed as an alternative experimental method to assess impulsivity, and evaluated performance in adult (2-10 years) and younger (2-9 months) dogs. The test was modified for field use with fewer controls (Simplified Spatial Discounting Task (SDTs)). Convergent validity with the SDT and DIAS Overall Questionnaire Scores (OQS) and stability over time (4-6 weeks) in the two age groups was determined. 96% of dogs recruited reached

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