

Impact of maintenance conditions in German Shepherd Dogs breeding on psychology development of puppies

S u m m a r y

Conditions and systems of raising puppies in breedings are very different, from those resembling home to a kennel. However, securing even the best living conditions is not enough for puppies' psychic development. The goal of this study was to assess the impact of the puppies' living conditions (house, kennel, house-kennel) in the first nine weeks of life on their psychic development. The research was based on German Shepherd Dogs from the kennels, registered in the Polish Kennel Club. Altogether 199 puppies from 6 kennels were examined. They were divided into 3 maintenance groups. As a research method, the puppy aptitude test, modified by the author of the study, was applied. For statistical analysis a version of „Statistica” statistical software was used and the significance of differences between the averages was verified with Fisher's NIR test. The most of very good marks were achieved by the puppies from house-kennel and house breeding. Puppies from the discussed breeding also achieved higher average PAT test scores. Puppies from kennels achieved much lower scores in PAT test and the differences were significant and highly significant, compared to house-kennel and house breeding. Those puppies showed better movement coordination and quicker reaction to stimuli than the puppies raised in kennels with little contact with their handler.