

## **Behavioural problems in dogs adopted from shelters**

### **Summary**

The care of homeless dogs in Poland has been entrusted to municipalities, whose duty is to place them in shelters. The main objectives of shelters should be the care of the dogs and successful adoption. The article presents the results of surveys on the adoption of 215 dogs. In 85% of the cases analysed, the dogs came from shelters or foundations caring for homeless animals or were taken 'off the street'. The occurrence of problems following adoption was determined in 65.6% of cases. The surveys concerning the impact of a dog's stay at a shelter on the occurrence of behavioural problems indicate that the most common problems were aggression directed at other dogs (20.5%), inability to walk on a lead (20%), urination/defecation inside the home (17.2%), and damaging things in their absence of the owners (16.3%). Although dog owners characterized the adoptions as 'difficult', only 51 of 141 of respondents reporting behavioural problems sought professional help. Nearly 100% of the behavioural problems reported were dealt with successfully.

**KEY WORDS:** dog, adoption, shelter, behavioural problems