

Press Release

Center for Canine Behavior Studies, Inc.
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For Immediate Release

May 8, 2019 Salisbury, CT. The Center for Canine Behavior Studies, Inc.'s latest study [*Demographics and Comorbidity of Behavior Problems in Dogs*](#) has been published in the Journal of Veterinary Medicine.

The study findings provide insight into the magnitude of owner-reported canine behavior problems encountered by owners. It is hoped that findings will encourage veterinarians to further incorporate aspects of behavior problem management into their daily work. More important, emerging findings from a follow up study with owners having problem dogs could make a significant impact in preventing misbehaving dogs from entering the shelter "system" in the first place, and helping dogs surrendered because of behavior, escape the "system" through adoption and thus avoid euthanasia.

Some Study Highlights

- A total of 3201 dog owners submitted information about 5018 dogs, spanning mixed and pure breeds.
- Among 2,480 dog owners and 4,114 dogs, the prevalence of owner-reported problematic behaviors was 85%.
- Males and female dogs were equally represented, a majority of which were neutered.
- The top three dogs in the study were Labrador retrievers (382), golden retrievers (138) and German shepherds (132).
- The two most prevalent acquisition sources for the dogs were rescues (43%) and breeders (33%), while the least reported source was pet stores (1%)
- Gender, neuter status, origin, and lineage were found to have a notable effect on behavior problem prevalence.
- Age, neuter status, origin, and lineage were found to have a notable effect on the *number* of behavior problems *per dog*.
- Dogs from rescue situations displayed significantly more behavior problems than dogs acquired from breeders.
- Neutered males and females were almost twice as likely to exhibit behavior problems as intact dogs.
- Fear and anxiety-based problems were reported in 44% of cases and were the most prevalent behavior problems reported.
- Aggression was the second most common behavior problem reported (30% of dogs).
- An association was found between owner-direct aggression and maleness.
- Biting: of note is the high number of dogs (91%) that had never bitten a person or another dog. Of the 9% that did, almost a third (29%) of the biting incidents involved more than one bite.
- A majority (92%) of biting incidents reported was for neutered dogs with castrated males accounting for 52% of the total reported bites and spayed females accounting for 41%.

Requests for Interviews

Dr. Dodman is available to discuss the study highlights and additional findings.

To speak with Dr. Dodman, please send an email request to Chris Janelli, **executivedirector@centerforcaninebehaviorstudies.org** or text message to **860-485-4066**.

About CCBS

The Center for Canine Behavior Studies, Inc. (CCBS or the “Center”) is a Connecticut public nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax identification number 83-0908914) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Center research is directed by Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman, *Professor Emeritus*, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Dodman is the Center’s Chief Scientific Officer and Editor-in-Chief. Under his leadership, the Center pursues research at the highest professional and academic level with over 6,000 participating dog owners—and growing—in the USA and abroad. Study findings are leading to novel strategies and solutions that will proactively support reducing surrender and euthanasia and keeping dogs in their homes for life.

As a “virtual” research organization, the Center utilizes the Internet, communication and data capture technologies to extend its research capabilities literally around the world and keep its research and operational costs minimal.

Learn more at:

Website: <http://www.centerforcaninebehaviorstudies.org>

GuideStar: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/83-0908914>

Access the Study Paper: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1558787818302727>