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Do age and conditions at rehoming affect behaviour in puppies?

Chamberlain, T.

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The Plymouth Student Scientist
University of Plymouth

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Appendix A

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Principal Investigator

Tamara Chamberlain

Title of Research

Does the early environment of puppies effect fear shown and/or owner satisfaction? _____

The research aims to find out if the age at which puppies are re-homed has any links to behaviours shown. The research also aims to find out if there are any factors which might influence owner satisfaction.

Participants will be briefed, offered the right to withdraw at anytime, and then offered a questionnaire to complete. The participants will then be debriefed.

The research hopes to benefit potential puppy owners by informing them of any behavioural benefits that may be achieved by homing a puppy at a certain age. The research also hopes to benefit dog welfare to some extent through researching factors which may affect the satisfaction of dog owners, and thus factors which may contribute to to the rehoming of a dog.

Participants are free to withdraw from the research at any stage. Participant anonymity is absolutely guaranteed, due to the fact that no personal information is required. It is due to this fact however, that once handed in, the researcher will be unable to remove completed questionnaires.

The researcher has attempted as far as possible, to avoid any risks, and that safety and health risks will have been separately assessed by appropriate authorities (e.g. under COSSH regulations).

If you are dissatisfied with the way the research is conducted, please contact the principal investigator in the first instance: telephone number 07841659456. If you feel the problem has not been resolved please contact the secretary to the Faculty of

Appendix B

Questionnaire on Puppy development

I have read the information sheet provided by the researcher and agree that I am giving informed consent of the use of any information given in this questionnaire. I am aware that I can withdraw at any time.

.....(*Please sign here to give informed consent*)

1. Age:.....

2. Breed:.....

3. Sex: Male/ Female (*please circle*)

4. Age of puppy when acquired:

- < 6 weeks (*please specify*).....
- 6 weeks
- 7 weeks
- 8 weeks
- 9 weeks
- 10 weeks
- >10 weeks (*please specify*).....

5. How many other dogs are there in the household?

6. How many puppies were there in the litter?

7. Please select the living conditions of the puppy when acquired (*tick box*)

- Living in house with breeder
- Living in separate outbuilding (kennel, barn)

8. What form of training do you use with your puppy?

- Positive reinforcement only
- Positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement

Negative reinforcement only

9. Has your puppy been health checked by a veterinarian? Yes/No (*Please circle*)

10. Does your puppy have any health problems? Yes/No (*Please circle*)

If yes please explain

.....
.....
.....

11. Please tick the appropriate boxes about the frequency and occasion at which your puppy shows fear:

Puppy shows fear of	Often	Rarely
Loud noises		
Strangers		
Dogs		
New situations		
Children		
Men		
Women		

12. If your puppy shows fearful behaviour, do you know of any particularly memorable events which may have caused the behaviour? Yes/No (*If yes, please explain*)

.....
.....
.....

13. How well do you feel your puppy has bonded with you on a scale of 1-4 (*please circle*):

1 (strongly bonded)

2 (well)

3 (slightly)

4 (hasn't)

14. How well do you feel your puppy has bonded with other members of your household on a scale of 1-4 (*please circle*):

1 (strongly bonded)

2 (well)

3 (slightly)

4 (hasn't)

15. Please tick the appropriate box for how well you feel your puppy has learnt the following:

Behavioral Attribute	Mostly successful	Mostly unsuccessful
House training		
Bite inhibition (has learnt to not to bite with pressure)		
Obedience (is willing to obey)		

Thank you very much for participating in this study