

A STUDY OF THE BEHAVIOR OF STRAY DOGS NEAR ATAL GARDEN, MAHAVEER
NAGAR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to use a stranger approach test to examine how stray dogs in colonies responded to strangers. From January to April 2023, behavioral information of dogs was gathered from the Garden area. We watched the dogs' interactions with one another as well as their neutral, avoidance, aggressive, vocalization, approach, and tail motions. The canines' first reactions were the only reactive behavior that was noted. The person who observed was trying to get used to the dogs by feeding and grooming them once a week for three weeks following the first stranger-approach test, which was done in the first week. The second stranger-approach test was then carried out in the fourth week. After that, in the sixth week, the third stranger-approach test was carried out. According to the findings, 15 dogs were seen during the first week of observation, 17 dogs during the fourth week, and 20 dogs during the sixth week. Before the test, more than 50% of the dogs were lying down and more than 60% of the dogs were alone. When compared to the first and fourth weeks, the dogs' responses in the sixth week were noticeably different. In the sixth week, more dogs neutrally responded and approached the researcher, while fewer canines reacted negatively and growled at him. The tails motions differed significantly between the first, fourth, and sixth weeks of observation. The number of reacting and vocalizing canines started to decline dramatically in the fourth week, and they entirely stopped and changed in the sixth week. In conclusion, the dogs' response was influenced by how well they knew the individuals that approached them. This is the first investigation of how stray dogs' behavior in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, responds to humans. Therefore, more study employing the stranger-approach test on stray dogs is required.

Keywords: stray dogs, behavior, garden.

INTRODUCTION:

Canis familiaris, often known as stray dogs, have long been a common sight in poor nations, but due to booming populations, rising citizen assaults, and spiraling rabies outbreaks, this issue is now a worldwide public health concern (Strand, 2011). Since civil authorities have been abandoning stray dogs on the outskirts of cities, the stray dog problem has gotten much worse with their population being dispersed over Raipur and its surrounding areas for up to 100 km. According to medical officials, at least 30 people in Raipur are bitten by dogs every day, mostly women and children.

Raipur Municipal Corporation has only attempted to trap stray dogs once, leaving them in the suburbs after receiving criticism from the animal protection board for using an inhumane method of canine capture. No country suffers from dogs as much as India, according to a survey, and no country has as many of them. An estimated 20,000 people die from rabies infections each year, which is more than one-third of the total number of rabies cases worldwide. The country has tens of millions of stray dogs that bite millions of humans, mostly youngsters. The stray canines in the garden frequently encounter strangers or persons who are still foreign to them.

The behavior of stray dogs in gardens can be affected by whether or not outsiders approach them and may even cause them anxiety. Therefore, the goal of this study was to assess how stray dogs in gardens reacted to people using a stranger-approach test (or to Laniet al. 2009). Five-year-old harsh Kaushik of Samta colony had an angry cut on his back while walking back from the playground after dark, according to the Raipur Municipal Corporation, from a strict dog that charged at him from behind.

METHODS

Data collection - Ortolani et al. (2009) report using a modified approach.

Social situation - A visual pattern allowed for the observation of the total number of dogs in the garden.

The canines' behavior before the stranger's approach was observed and recorded.

The researcher notes the dog's initial behavior after seeing it unfold.

Then, following the researcher's initial stranger-approach test, she examines all possible dog reactions. The first stranger test was conducted in the first week, the second exam was conducted in the fourth week, and the third test was conducted in the sixth week.

- **Fearful Actions:** Dogs that are on the streets may have a history of neglect, poor socialization, or even cruelty.
- **Wandering and Roaming:** Most of their day was spent wandering and roaming for former stray canines. They could play hard to catch if they can get away.
- **Marking of urine:** Urine marks are a means for stray dogs to communicate with other canines. When other dogs step in another dog's urine, they discover a variety of information about the canine that left the "pee-mail." "Urine is not just randomly placed on vertical surfaces; it is strategically placed.
- **Insufficient housetraining:** Although they may have a natural tendency not to pollute the areas where they eat, drink, or sleep, former stray dogs are accustomed to going pee whenever they feel like it.
- **Food Scavenging:** Stray dogs may scrounge for food, so raiding the garbage or stealing food from a counter may seem normal for them. They could consume food quickly, and some might get protective of their meal if other canines or animals approach them.
- **Predation:** Once stray Dogs may have the instinct to seek small animals.
- **Excessive barking:** The barking could be extreme at night or in response to strange sights and sounds.
- **Negative Professions:** It's possible that ex-stray dogs have never lived in a house. If they have, they might not have received any instruction or they might have forgotten how to act in a classroom if they have.

Table 1 Social condition and behavior of dogs investigated before the behavioral study

Behaviors	1st week	4th week	6th week
	Number of dogs	Number of dogs	Number of dogs
No. of dogs living alone	12	14	15
In pairs	2	1	1
living with >3 dogs	1	2	4

Barking	4	3	2
Lyingdown	7	11	14
Standing	2	1	1
Walking	4	2	1
Running	0	1	0
Sleeping	1	2	2
Sitting	1	0	2

Figure 1: Behaviorsofdogsinvestigatedbefore the behavioralstudy



STRANGER APPROACH TEST–

We use dogs to conduct the stranger approach test. Dogs exhibit a variety of behaviors, including vocalization, aggression, avoidance, and neutrality. The first week of research revealed 6 neutral behaviorsdogs, avoidance shows four dogs, aggressive shows one dog, the approach shows two dogs, and vocalizingshows two dogs.

In the fourth week of the stranger approach test, the researcher saw 11 dogs exhibit neutral behavior, 2 dogs exhibit avoidance behavior, 0 dogs exhibit aggressive behavior, 3 dogs exhibit approach behavior, and 1 dog exhibit vocalization behavior.

In the sixth week of the stranger approach test, the researcher saw that 14 dogs exhibited neutral behavior, 1 dog displayed avoidance behavior, 0 dogs displayed aggression, 5 dogs displayed approach behavior, and 0 dogs displayed vocalization.

Figure 2: The behavior of dogs in the stranger-approach test.



Table 2: Reaction of dogs in the stranger-approach test.

Behaviors	1st week	4th week	6th week
	Number of dogs	Number of dogs	Number of dogs
Reaction to approach			

Neutral	6	8	10
Avoidance	4	2	1
Aggressive	1	0	0
Approach	2	3	5
Vocalizing	2	1	0

DISCUSSION AND RESULT –

This is a social condition and behavior of dogs investigated before behavior study. 12 Dogs were observed in 1st week, 14 dogs were observed in the 4th week and 15 dogs were observed in the 6th week of the study period (table 1 and fig 1). They Barking, lied down, Stand, Walking, Run, Sleeping, Siting

After the stranger-approach test, it is recorded that the behavior of the dogs changed with the people surrounding them (table 2, figure 2). like they are neutral, avoid barking, do not show aggression, approach food, try to understand the approach, do not run away, and try to be familiar. tail movement is related to vocalizing and nonvocalizing.

This survey was based on the different behavior of dogs.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the dogs' responses varied depending on how well they knew the humans that approached them. Both known and unfamiliar persons can impact a dog's behaviour. The number of dogs and the variety of behaviors are correlated with the number of dogs that react or do not react. Only the tail motions have any bearing on whether an animal is vocalizing or not.

After the stranger test, stray dogs behave differently; they now approach food, don't act aggressively, don't flee, etc. The behavior of stray dogs among residents of Raipur's Atal Garden, Mahaveer Nagar, has never been studied before. In order to fully understand how stray dogs in the Garden respond to both known and unknown people, it will also be important to examine several other emotions (such as fear and fun).

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