

THESIS

**STUDY OF STRESS SCORING OF DOGS (*Canis familiaris*)
DURING CLINIC VISITS AT URBAN PAWS
VETERINARY CLINIC, MALAYSIA**



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ENDORSEMENT FORM

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DURING CLINIC VISITS AT URBAN PAWS CLINIC, MALAYSIA**

Thesis

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DECLARATION

Hereby, I declare that in the thesis entitled:

STUDY OF STRESS SCORING OF DOGS (*Canis familiaris*) DURING CLINIC VISITS AT URBAN PAWS CLINIC

No other paperwork has ever been published to obtain a bachelor's degree in any other universities and according to my knowledge, there are no paperwork or opinions which have been written or published by someone else, except those which is written, referred in this paper and mentioned in the references.

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SUMMARY

LOW BRYAN, the research entitled ‘**STUDY OF STRESS SCORING OF DOGS (*Canis familiaris*) DURING CLINIC VISITS AT URBAN PAWS CLINIC, MALAYSIA**’. Visits to a veterinary clinic can be very stressful for the dog, and stress may interact with pain. The aim of this study was to observe the behaviour of dogs in a veterinary clinic and to correlate it with subjective stress assessments by different persons. Systems have already been developed to assess stress in dogs. With a standardize dogs scoring from 0 – 5 depend on the dog’s behaviour and appearance.

Most dogs show signs of fear when visiting the veterinarian, making veterinary visits stressful also for their owners. Dogs may react based on earlier negative experiences in a clinic. Animals’ stress associated with the veterinary visit can distort physiological measurements, hamper the physical examination and, in case of aggression, pose a risk to the veterinary team. This study is important because it investigates how dogs experience a visit to the veterinary clinic using a series of standardized tests and assessments by a veterinarian, a veterinary nurse, a test leader, and the owner. The study also addresses whether the type of relationship the owner has with the dog influences how the dog experiences the visit. This problem is important because it is stressful for veterinarians, that the patients are not cooperating during clinic visits. The patient might sometimes struggle, bite, growl, or scratch leading harm to the veterinarians from getting hurt. Veterinarians are also not able to fully examine properly the patient through palpation, percussion and auscultation methods used to detect

clinical signs of abnormalities. That is why by assessing with the dog stress scoring, we can collect these data for any other further studies or research.

The research will be held in Urban Paws Veterinary Clinic. 30 purposive selected healthy dog patients will be selected. The data is recorded and collected by the time the patient just entered the clinic for consultation and after the consultation. The data will be recorded based on the Stress Level Scoring and record the behaviour and body language of the dog patient. Both data collected shall further analyse and compare. While the dog's owner is waiting for consultation, a questionnaire is given for the owner regarding the dog's name, breed, age, sex, body weight and reason for visit. The dog's stress scoring during home is based on the description with the owner, but during and after consultation is scored by the researcher.

There are increase signs of stress during consultation when the patient is in the veterinary clinic. Owners who interact with their dogs through training and playing often, shows fewer stressing behaviours when introduce to a new unfamiliar environment, human or dogs. Presence of unfamiliar humans or other dogs in the clinic premises affects the stress level of the dog patient. Another finding is that male dogs are more stressed compared to female dogs in this experiment.

**STUDY OF STRESS SCORING OF DOGS
(*Canis familiaris*) DURING CLINIC VISITS AT URBAN PAWS CLINIC,
MALAYSIA**

Low Bryan

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine the level of stress of each dog patient during home, during consultation and after consultation using the Table of Stress Scoring of Dogs During Clinic Visits. 30 purposive selected healthy dog patients will be selected in a clinic. The scoring during consultation along with the underlying issues that causes the stress of the dog are recorded. Scoring is then recorded again after the consultation. There is an increase of stress scoring of the dog from during home to during the consultation and later a decrease of stress scoring after consultation. Owners who interact with their dogs through training and playing often, shows fewer stressing behaviours when introduce to a new unfamiliar environment, human or dogs. Presence of unfamiliar humans or other dogs in the clinic premises affects the stress level of the dog patient.

Keywords: Dogs (*Canis familiaris*), stress scoring, during home, during consultation, and after consultation.

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Although this research paper is written carefully and thoroughly checked it may consist imperfections in the preparation of this thesis. Nonetheless, criticism and improvement given are always welcomed. Lastly, the author hopes that this

thesis could be useful information for society especially in the veterinary medicine field and further understanding how the way dogs think.

Surabaya, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the author's name.

Author

Low Bryan

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