**VARIATION IN ACTVITY LEVELS AMONGST DOGS OF DIFFERENT BREEDS: RESULTS OF A LARGE ONLINE SURVEY OF DOGS OWNERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM**

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**Introduction**

Regular physical activity is an important means of promoting health, both in people and their pets. Walking is the most common method used for dogs, but there is a lack of clarity on how much dog activity different breeds of dog require.

**Materials and methods**

First, a literature review was conducted to identify evidence-based recommendations for dog walking amongst breeds. Data from an online survey of UK dog owners were collected between June and August in 2014. The University of Liverpool Ethics Committee approved the project, and owners consented to data use. The initial dataset (17028 dogs) was first cleaned to remove erroneous data, and then edited to remove mixed breed dogs, leaving a total of 12,314 dogs from known pedigree breeds. Other information collected included age, sex, neuter status, UK Kennel Club breed grouping, and owner reports walking activity. Walk frequency and duration were estimated across different breeds, and compared with Kennel Club recommendations. Chi-squared tests and binary logistic regression analysis were used to examine associations between walking behaviour and either dog breed or breed grouping.

**Results**

The literature review revealed no evidence-based guidelines for the public on frequency and duration of walking for different dig breeds. The online survey data indicated differences amongst breeds in the amount of walking reported (*P*<0.001). Afghan Hounds were the least exercised breed, whilst breed reportedly exercised most included: English Setter, Foxhound, Irish Setter, and Old English Sheepdog (n=19). Gundogs were three times more likely to be walked once a day or more (*P*<0.001), whilst smaller dogs were more likely to meet their UK Kennel Club guidelines for dog walking (*P*<0.001).

**Discussion and conclusions**

The frequency of dog walking varies both within and amongst breeds, and many do not currently receive the recommended amount of exercise.