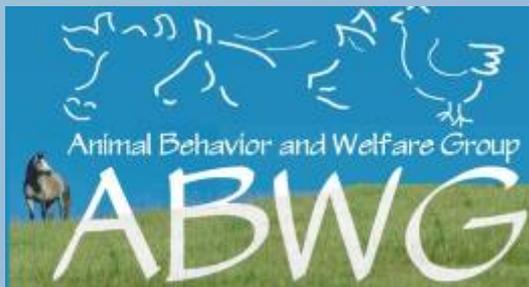




Canine Scenario: Comparison of working and show dogs (Siberian Huskies)

Animal Welfare Judging Competition 2008



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Overview: Sled Dog

- Small sled dog kennel located in northern Wisconsin
- Owner has B.S. in animal science and 12 years experience training and racing sled dogs
- Current kennel population consists of 6 dogs
 - Breed: Siberian Husky
 - Age of dogs: 20 months to 5 years
 - Sex: 3 males and 3 females
 - 1 male and all females are intact
- Dogs are trained for sprint racing
 - Sled race distance < 12 mi/race (19 km)



Overview: Show Dog

- Small show kennel located in southern Michigan
- Owner has 14 years experience training and showing dogs
- Current kennel population consists of 8 dogs
 - Breed: Siberian Husky
 - Age of dogs: 18 months to 9 ½ years
 - Sex: 3 males and 5 females
 - All males and 3 females are intact
- Dogs are shown in breed conformation classes



Housing: Sled Dog

- Each dog has its own house constructed out of plywood
- Houses are placed facing south and wooden “feet” keep houses approx. 2 in (5.1 cm) off the ground
- House dimensions:
 - 24 in wide x 36 in deep (61 cm x 91 cm)
 - Front and back of house are 26 in (66 cm) and 23 in (58 cm) high, respectively
 - Slanted roof prevents water from collecting
 - Doors are 12” x 14” (30.5 cm x 35.6 cm)
- Bedding:
 - 2-3” (5.1-7.6 cm) layer of shavings and 6-8” (15.2-20.3 cm) of straw
 - Straw is fluffed every other day and added as needed
 - Bedding is completely changed out if wet



Housing: Sled Dog

- Dogs are housed using a swivel tether system
- A 5 ft (1.5 m) chain is attached to the end of a swivel rebar fixed onto a 6 ft (1.8 m) post
- The swivel rebar rotates 360 degrees giving each dog a 10 ft (3.0 m) circle
- Chains are attached to the dog's collar with a swivel snap hook
- Dogs are housed adjacent to other dogs with a measured 6 in (15.2 cm) of space between each chain end to prevent dogs from becoming tangled
- During the summer, shade cloth is fastened to perimeter posts to keep dogs cool
- Feces are removed from tether area 2x/day (3x/day in summer)



Housing: Show Dog

- Dogs are housed in outdoor kennels
 - Most of the dogs are housed individually
 - Younger dogs are housed in pairs
- Kennels are 6 ft x 16 ft (1.8 m x 4.9 m) with concrete flooring and a roof overhead
- Each kennel has an insulated (plastic, igloo style) dog house
 - House Dimensions:
 - 50 in x 40 in x 30 in (127 cm x 102 cm x 76 cm)
- During the winter, kennel floors are covered with pine shavings
 - Dirty/wet shavings are removed daily and bedding is added as needed
 - Shavings are completely replaced every 2 weeks



Housing: Show Dog

- During the summer, kennels are cleaned 1x/day
 - Concrete floors are powerwashed and disinfected 1x/week
- During the summer, shade cloth is attached to the sides of the kennel to help keep dogs cool
 - Nearby trees also provide some natural shade
- During the winter, solid, heavyweight tarps are fastened to the sides of the kennel to help block wind and snow
- The kennel is situated within a 1 acre (0.4 hectare) yard
- The yard is fenced with 6 ft (1.8 m) high chain link



Nutrition: Sled Dog

- All dogs are fed according to their individual energy requirements and body condition
- Dogs are fed 2x/day in the morning and evening
- Diet composition:
 - Kibble (performance dog food = 32% protein and 20% fat)
 - In the fall and winter, dogs are also fed cooked rice and chicken fat 1x/day and receive a raw egg 2x/week
 - Dogs receive supplemental glucosamine and chondroitin
- Water:
 - In the summer, dogs receive water 2x/day in large plastic buckets attached to their houses
 - In the winter, each dog is offered a clean dish of water 3x/day
 - In the winter, dogs also have dry food is soaked in water and dogs also receive *baited** water 2x/day to maintain hydration



*Various ingredients are added to water (e.g., tuna, salmon, canned dog food) and the mix is ladled into each dog's food dish

Nutrition: Show Dog

- All dogs are fed according to their individual energy requirements and body condition
- Dogs are fed 1x/day in the evening
- Diet composition:
 - Kibble (premium dog food = 26% protein and 16% fat)
 - In the winter, dogs are also fed fresh beef (fat on cuts)
- Water:
 - Dogs have constant access to clean water in their kennels
 - In the summer, water is provided in stainless steel buckets
 - In the winter, water is provided in large heated buckets, and warm water is added to the dogs' dry food



Veterinary Care: Sled Dog

- All dogs visit veterinarian for annual physical exam
- Owner administers the following vaccines annually:
 - Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Para Influenza, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis, and Bordatella
- 3 year rabies vaccine for all dogs (administered by veterinarian)
- Dogs dewormed every 3 months and fecal samples are collected periodically throughout the year to assess parasite load
- Dogs receive monthly heartworm preventative
- A topical flea/tick control product is applied to the dogs every 3 weeks from April to October

Veterinary Care: Show Dog

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- Owner administers the following vaccines annually:
 - Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Para Influenza, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis
- 3 year rabies vaccine for all dogs (administered by veterinarian)
- Dogs are not vaccinated against Bordatella
 - There have been no cases of Bordatella in 10 years
- Dogs receive monthly heartworm preventative product that also protects against hook, round, and whip worms
- A topical flea/tick control product is applied to the dogs every 6 weeks from April to October (or until the first hard frost)
- Dogs receive dental care as needed and have eyes examined annually by an AVCO* specialist
- Hip x-rays are performed on dogs at 2 years of age
- Older dogs (>8 years) receive annual bloodwork

*American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

Training: Sled Dog

- All dogs are trained in basic obedience and receive regular 1 on 1 training throughout the year
- Young dogs are acclimated to wearing a harness and begin learning how to pull at 1 year of age
- Training for race season begins in the fall once temperatures are in the 50-60°F (10-16°C) range
- Dogs train 2-4 days/week and are gradually worked from one mile up to the mileage they will run during racing season
- Periodically, during training sessions, dogs are worked 2 miles beyond the race distance in order to help improve speed and stamina



Training: Show Dog

- All dogs are trained in basic manners
- Dogs are also trained to “gait” on a leash and “stack” and stand for the judge
- Dogs are trained using positive reinforcement
 - Typically a food reward (“bait”) is given for paying attention and behaving appropriately
- Dogs newer to showing receive 15 minute training sessions, 2-3 days/week
- Older, more experienced dogs only receive brief schooling sessions just prior to entering the ring



Event Schedule: Sled Dog

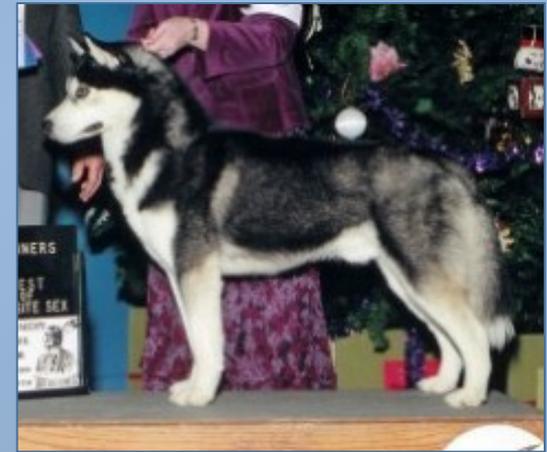
- Racing season commences in December and ends in early March
- Dogs attend 8 races per year
- Each race requires a 2-3 day commitment
- Dogs compete against other 6-dog teams
- Dogs run 6 miles/race
 - During a 3 day event, dogs run 6 miles each day
 - Total weight pulled by the team = 220 lbs (100 kg)
 - Average race speed = 15-18 mph (24-29 kph)
 - Musher pedals/runs behind sled when going uphill
 - Sled runners are waxed to reduce resistance
- Races are ISDRA* sanctioned
- Musher carries dog first aid kit
- Longest drive to an event is 7 hours



*International Sled Dog Racing Association

Event Schedule: Show Dog

- Dogs are shown 9 months out of the year
- Majority of dogs in the kennel attend 18 shows per year
 - 2 weekend shows per month
- Each show requires a 2-3 day commitment
 - Occasionally, shows held over a holiday weekend last 4 days (e.g. dogs shown during the Memorial Day weekend would show all 4 days, Friday-Monday)
- Dogs normally compete in 1 breed conformation class per day
 - Dogs winning Best of Breed will also show in the Working Group class and may occasionally advance to Best in Show
- Longest drive to an event is 7 hours



Transportation: Sled Dog

- Dogs are transported to races in dog boxes mounted securely onto the bed of the owner's truck
- Boxes are made of plywood and are 30 x 19 x 22 in (76.2 x 48.3 x 55.9 cm) with 12 x 14 in (30.5 x 35.6 cm) doors
- Each door has an 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm) diamond mesh opening for ventilation and 3 in (7.6 cm) gap at the top of each divider inside the box allows air flow and contact between dogs while traveling
- Boxes are bedded with shavings and straw
 - Bedding is added as needed and completely replaced if wet



Transportation: Sled Dog

- Dogs are taken out of the boxes and assisted to the ground to prevent injury
- At the race site, each dog is attached to a 2 ft (0.6 m) drop line hooked to the truck wheels, tow hooks, and hitch
- While on the road, but not directly on the race site, dogs are tethered outside on a picket line
 - 50 ft (15.2 m) chain with 6 separate 2 ft (0.6 m) sections coming off of it to allow dogs more room while tied

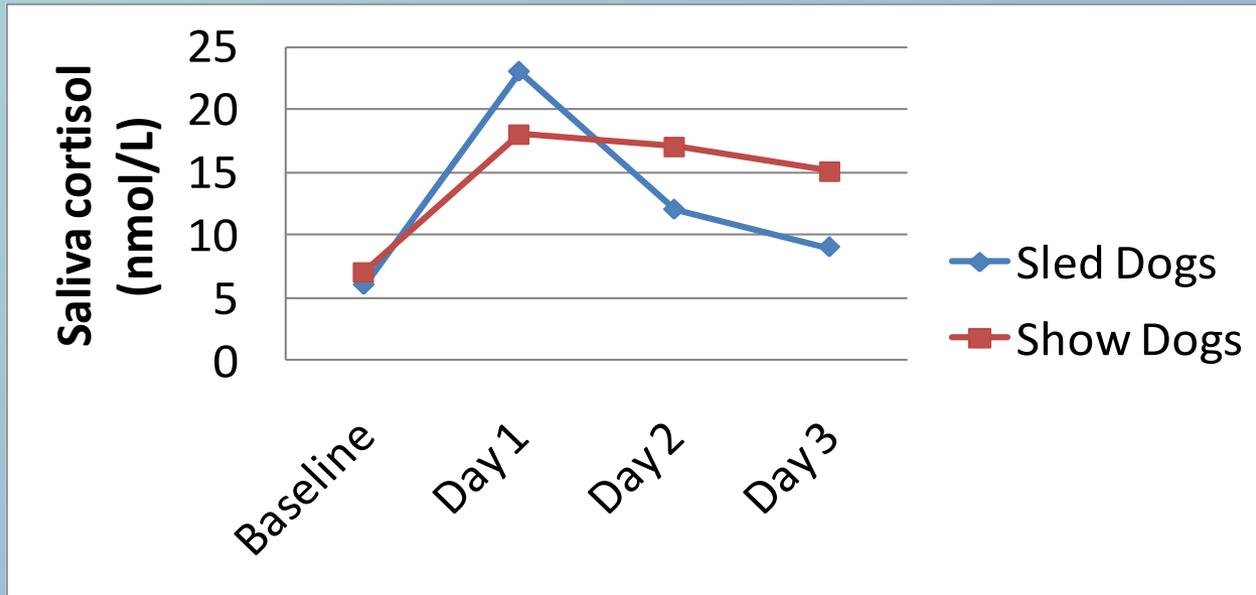


Transportation: Show Dog

- Dogs are transported to shows in large airline crates loaded into the owner's van
 - Crate dimensions: 4.0 x 2.0 x 2.5 ft (1.2 x 0.6 x 0.8 m)
- 5 dogs in crates can fit inside the van
- At outdoor shows, dogs stay in the van with the back and rear sliding doors of the van kept open for air flow
 - Battery powered fans are attached to crate doors and owner carries a spray bottle with cool water to mist dogs
 - Whenever possible, owner tries to park the van and set up the grooming stand in a shaded area
- At indoor shows, dogs are kept inside in their large crates



Physiological Responses to Events



Salivary cortisol response during a 3-day event. Samples were collected at the same time each day while dogs were sedentary (i.e. not being handled, raced, or shown).

Average Capillary Refill Time (sec)		
	Immediately post event	12 hours post event
Sled Dogs	3.0	2.5
Show Dogs	1.5	1.0

Enrichment: Sled Dog

- Dogs are well socialized to people and other dogs
- Dogs have access to other dogs on 2 sides
- During the off season, dogs play with owner, toys and agility obstacles in the garage (3 dogs in a group for playtime)
 - 30 minute play sessions, 5 days/week
- While on their tethers, dogs have access to toys and bones 1x/week
- On average, owner interacts with dogs 3-4x/day
- Periodically throughout the year, owner and dogs travel to area schools to give working dog demonstrations



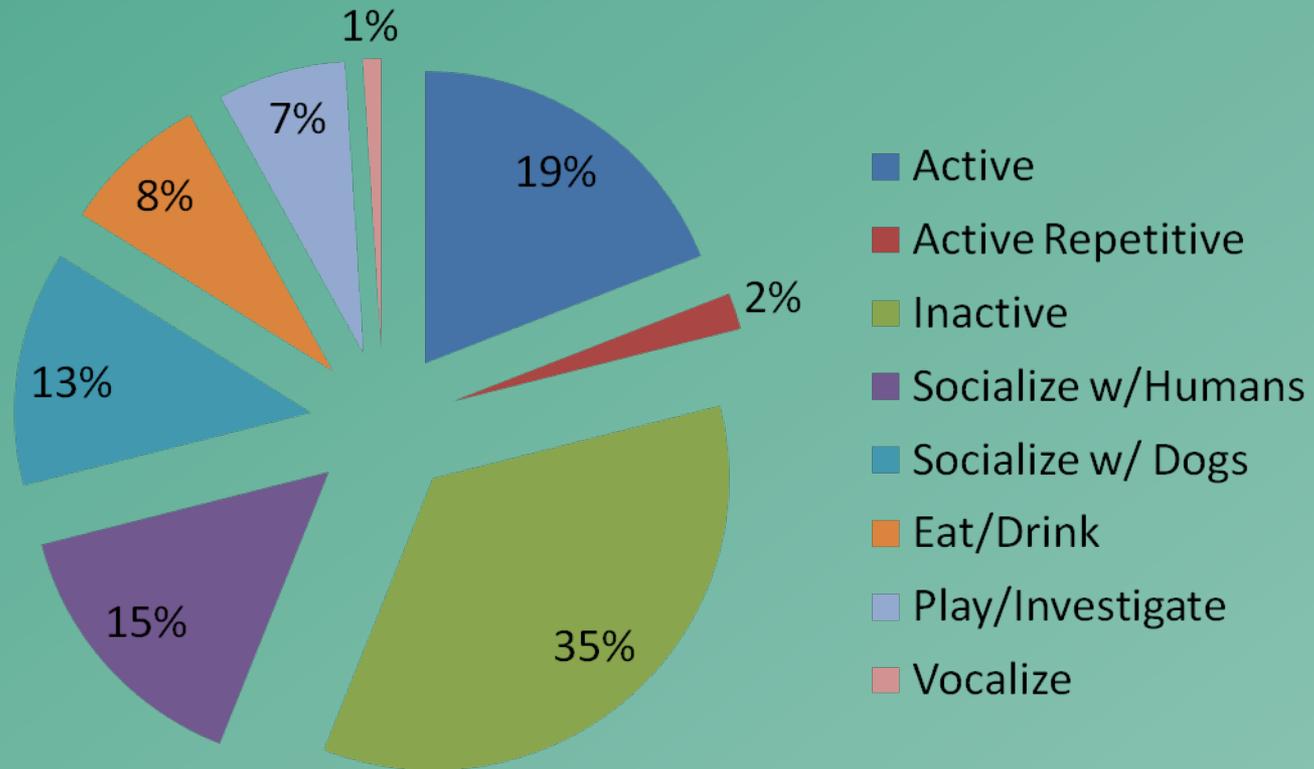
Enrichment: Show Dog

- Dogs are well socialized to people and other dogs
- Dogs have visual and nose to nose contact with neighboring dogs through kennel fencing
- Dogs are let out into the yard to play and exercise (4 dogs in a group for playtime)
 - 30 minute play sessions, 7 days/week
- Dogs always have access to toys and bones in their kennels
- On average, owner interacts with dogs 2-3x/day
- Dogs take turns spending some time inside the house (1-2 at a time)



Time Budget

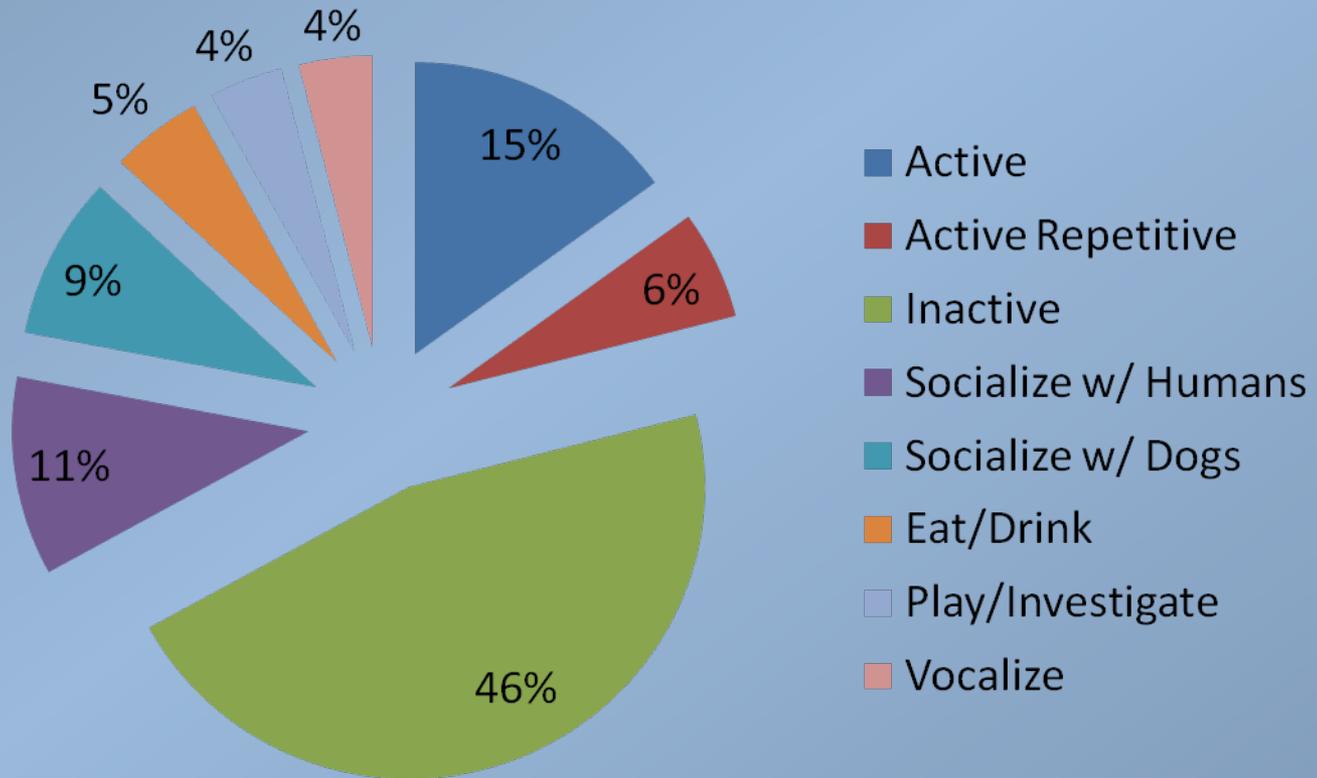
Sled Dogs



Behaviors observed 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Time Budget

Show Dogs



Behaviors observed 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

End of Scenario

