NEWS

Bark Out Loud

Common Household Noises Can Cause Stress and Anxiety for Your Dog - Some Sounds Are Painful[1]

Frontiers in Veterinary Science, November 8th 2021

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, have found that people may not recognize that their dog is stressed when exposed to common household noises. While it's well established that sudden loud noises, such as fireworks or thunderstorms, commonly trigger a dog's anxiety, a new study finds even common noises, such as a vacuum or microwave, can be a trigger. The study was published in Frontiers in Veterinary Science. The research found that high-frequency, intermittent noises are more likely to cause a dog anxiety, rather than low-frequency, continuous noise. Reported prevalence of noise sensitivities (marked and even extreme responses to noise) in domestic dogs varies by study, but often ranges as high as 50%. The study found that owners not only underestimated their dogs' fearfulness, but the majority of people responded with amusement rather than concern over their dog's welfare.

80 million cats and dogs on streets in India, homeless and uncared for[2]

TOI, November 26th 2021

The first-ever State of Pet Homelessness Index report, released on Thursday, estimates there are 80 million homeless cats and dogs in India living in shelters or on the streets. India scored a measly 2.4 on a 10-point scale on the Pet Homelessness Index. The low rating underlines the need for a more coordinated effort to address the challenge of pet homelessness in the country. The main reasons why India rates so low are the relatively low companion animal sterilisation and vaccination, high percentage of canine diseases and the absence of strong enforcement of laws on animal welfare and against cruelty to animals. The report revealed a high relinquishment levels, with 50% of current and previous pet owners stating they had relinquished a pet against a global average of 28%.

Ophthalmic disorders in a referral population of seven breeds of brachycephalic dogs[3]

JAVMA, November 2021

Some brachycephalic dog breeds have been rising in popularity, and practitioners should be prepared to treat them. Over a 10-year period, the most common ophthalmic disorders for 7 brachycephalic breeds were corneal ulcers, keratoconjunctivitissicca, corneal pigmentation, immature cataracts, and uveitis. Medical records of 7 brachycephalic breeds (ie, Boston Terriers, English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Pekingese, Pugs, and Shih Tzus) were reviewed to collect data. Although all dogs shared brachycephalic features, the frequency of specific ophthalmic diseases varied between breeds. There was a significant difference in breed proportion in the study population; of the 7 breeds studied, Shih Tzus (34.3% [333/970]), Pugs (20.8% [202/970]), and Boston Terriers (16.6% [161/970]) were the most prevalent breeds.

Acaricidal and Repellent Effects of Essential Oils against Ticks

Pathogens, November 2021

Tick control is a priority in order to prevent the transmission of vector-borne diseases. Industrial chemical acaricides and repellents have been the most efficient tools against hard ticks for a long time. However, the appearance of resistances has meant the declining effectiveness of the chemicals available on the market. The trend today is to develop alternative control methods using natural products to replace nonefficient pesticides and to preserve the efficient ones, hoping to delay resistance development. In recent decades, natural products and their compounds have been the most productive source for new drug development. Among them, essential oils and isolated terpenoids have shown activity against diverse stages of several species of ticks. Many studies have reported the ovicidal (inhibited oviposition and inhibited hatchability), effects against all the stages of ticks.

The substances obtained from plants have a low cost, few residual effects, and a low incidence of generating resistance. Two effects of essential oils against ticks were observed: acaricidal or repellent effects. They cause various effects against ticks: feeding inhibition, inhibition of chitin synthesis, decrease in growth, development, or reproduction, and affect tick behaviour. Several studies have reported that essential oils act against ticks through three modes of action: neurotoxicity effect, cytotoxicity effect, and mechanical effects. Numerous preclinical studies have documented the acaricidal efficacy of EOs and/or their main compounds, in many cases elucidating their mechanism of action and lethal dose, and their relative biosafety and biodegradability in nature, which may constitute a serious alternative to the use of chemical acaricides.

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