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Abstract

Pet food industry balance between nutritional excellence and taste in products that promote animal health. Palatability stands as a pivotal attribute for food acceptance across all species, notably among dogs. Factors influencing a dog's meal readiness include food palatability and the dog's subjective preference based on aroma, texture, appearance, and taste.

King's Choice Dog Juices – Health (beef, pork, and chicken flavors) constitute a dietary supplement comprising premium, safe ingredients aimed at fortifying the immune system, enhancing overall health, and fostering skeletal and cartilage development. Recommended for preventing hypovitaminosis and deficiencies in essential amino acids, it proves beneficial in instances of compromised animal health.

This research aims to assess the acceptability of King's Choice juices from the Health series utilizing a one-dish test (one-pan test) alongside dog behavior ethograms, with analysis of the obtained results. The study involved 12 socialized dogs of similar age (1 to 2 years) and body weight (10 to 15 kg), divided into two groups of six dogs each. First group (the control group) received water and standard food, while the second group (experimental group) received King's Choice Health juices in addition to food and water, administered twice daily at 10 am and 2 pm. Dogs in the experimental group consumed King's Choice juices for ten consecutive days at same times.

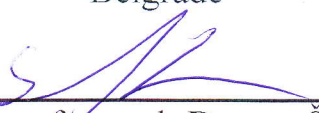
Recordings were made on the first, ninth, and tenth days to capture consistent food preference behaviors, necessitating a multi-day filming. Video data were subsequently coded to identify specific dog behaviors (ethogram).

Results indicate increased juice acceptability among some dogs after nine days of consumption, with certain dogs displaying significant interest even at the initial introduction of the juice. Unlike water drinking, notably, neophobia - a natural aspect of canine behavior reflecting caution towards unfamiliar stimuli - was observed in some dogs (which were tested King's Choice juices in this case) upon their first encounter with the new product, regardless of its composition. The study suggests that minimizing neophobia and acclimating some dogs to new tastes and feeding schedules may require at least nine days. A gradual introduction of new food or dietary supplements, coupled with patience towards initial neophobic responses, is recommended to encourage a healthy, diverse diet of dogs. Discrepancies in dogs' interest levels in King's Choice juices may stem from factors such as satiety, individual food ingredients, or various stimuli potentially affecting juice consumption.

Behaviors, such as tail wagging and licking, were more frequent on the ninth day, indicating dogs' acclimatization to their King's Choice juice consumption routine and their association of specific signals with juice delivery times, heightening excitement and anticipation levels. In conclusion, King's Choice juices offer a viable alternative to water in many scenarios due to increased acceptability following adaptation to new flavors and decreased neophobia. The declared nutritional value, aimed at preserving and enhancing overall canine health, constitutes an added benefit, presenting a clear advantage over water.

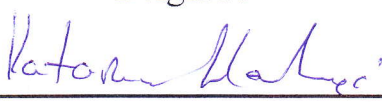
Belgrade,
May 13th, 2023

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