



VIRTUAL MEETING

Certificate of Attendance

Zsófia Bognár

Has Attended

THE ABS 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

July 28 - 31, 2020

August 18, 2020

DATE

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the ABS President.

ABS PRESIDENT

Shorter headed and younger dogs have a higher propensity to form eye contact with humans

Zsófia Bognár, Dóra Szabó, Alexandra Deés, Enikő Kubinyi. *Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, , Hungary*

Pet dogs' increased attention to humans can enhance dog-human communication, but it can be influenced by several factors. We measured dogs' (N=103) social attention as the propensity of establishing eye contact with an unfamiliar human. Results showed that younger dogs formed eye contact faster than older ones, which is consistent with other dog studies showing decreased attention with aging. Breed function also had an effect: cooperative breeds established eye contact faster than dogs which were selected to work visually independently. Shorter headed dogs established eye contact faster, possibly due to their retinal ganglion cells' distribution, as they are less distracted by other stimuli coming from peripheral areas when looking straight ahead. These findings suggest that selective breeding on head morphology affected the visual communicative abilities. Consequently, shorter headed dogs may be more attentive to people. Although head shape may not be independent of the function of the breeds, the distribution of the cephalic index did not differ significantly between the breed groups, supporting that head anatomy also affects communicative behaviour.