

Abstract

The Puppy Project is an ongoing research project at the AVC that is examining outcomes of early and repeated cognitive test results in later behavioral pathologies in young dogs. One of 7 tests in this project is the Tracking/Focus Test which requires the puppies follow movement of a plush toy with their eyes. This test was given to puppies at 3- and 12-months of age. Videos were taken at each visit and later analyzed for the behaviors shown. Analysis of fear scores and dedicated tracking/focus time showed a moderate correlation at both 3 and 12 months. Fearful puppies spent less time tracking the toy. Surprisingly, most puppies spent significantly less time tracking the toy with age.