



LIFE OF DOGS' IN THE STREET OF BANGLADESH

*M Ashraful Kabir

Lecturer in Zoology, Cantonment Public School and College, Saidpur Cantonment 5311, District- Nilphamari, Bangladesh

Abstract: Most dogs in Bangladesh are street dogs resemble with Basenji dog of mid Africa, Congo. Sometimes with these dogs some cross breeds are there. The longevity of these dogs is very few for taking rotten wastage from anywhere. It affected various diseases and injured by people like hot water thrown, leg cut and severe attack. Dogs' mouth is the reservoir of rabies virus. Normally this virus not affected dogs. In leisure time dogs lick its leg by mouth and tongue so that rabies virus comes from mouth to legs easily. So, its scratching with claws is responsible for rabies attack to human. Especially children irritate the dogs when it takes rest or sleep on sand on in front of restaurant or in breeding season. Due to winter in Bangladesh (October-December) at night the environment is not gathered with people. So, dogs' mating is happened smoothly. Dogs are very useful for natural scavenging and house guard. Dogs are carnivorous and ferocious animal so need to careful handling throughout its life. Moreover, we should count our street dogs which is called dog census and pre-exposure is must for rabies attack.

Key words: Dog; Behaviour; Canids; Mating; Basenji.

INTRODUCTION

Dog is the first domesticated animal and widely kept as a working, hunting, and pet companion with human. The word *Canis* means 'true dogs', including the wolf, coyote, and jackals. The English word dog comes from old English *docga*. The father of a litter is called sire and mother dam. Dog is very useful for protecting our residence. Its life is very threatened and painful. From dawn to

night it spends time on the street with huge unwanted behaviour from common people. Its completely exceptional attached mating behaviour in an open place is not a good scenario to all. Secondly it's biting is more dangerous which causes hydrophobia due to rabies virus. From the superstitions our street dogs are not sacred animal. Its smell power is more powerful. Dogs are

internationally recognized animals. When dogs are getting birth most puppies are grown with very unfavourable conditions by people. Some are died for road accident. Unhygienic environment and rotten food they engulf. They are easily contaminated by germs. After primates dogs are the most commonly social animal. All dogs are recognized as renowned animal in three ways. First is for hunting behaviour which comes from wolf^{22, 15}. Secondly dogs are domesticated in human residence⁸ and thirdly they have got human contact in various ways. Dogs are shown pointing, orientation and glancing as human signals²⁴. In US 77.5 million dogs are considered as mix breeds³. Dogs are contributed to physical, social and emotional well-being of their owners particularly children^{11, 32}. A study suggested that in Bangladesh 57 types of diseases are found in dogs which are categorized in 17³⁶. From wolf (*Canis*

lupus) all domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) are originated^{34, 21, 13}.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Breeds: In Bangladesh all street dogs are resemble with Basenji dog (Plate 1-2). On road-side with indigenous dogs or in house crossbreed (Plate 3) were found which father is indigenous (Bangladeshi) but mother is crossed or foreign type. Purebred dogs are genetically distinguishable from other dogs by which kennel clubs classify dogs is unsystematic. These include in three major categories- mastiff, herding and all others³¹. Some working dog breeds include akita, alaskan, shepherd, terrier, boxer, doberman, great dane, mastiff, saint bernard, samoyed and Siberian husky



Plate 1-2. Street dogs



Plate 3. Crossbreed (crossbreed ♀ x indigenous ♂)



Feed: Dogs have adaptations in starch digestion. A number of common human foods and household ingestibles are toxic to the dogs including onion, garlic, grapes and nuts. The nicotine in tobacco can also be dangerous by scavenging eating cigars. Signs can be vomiting or diarrhea. Some other signs are abdominal pain and loss of coordination. Charcoals are the solution at this stage. Though the dogs are carnivorous animal so it waits for flesh of cows or goats. But for human need not enough flesh is allowed for those dogs.

OBSERVATION:

Domestic dogs exhibit a number of behaviors inherited from wolves. The average sleep time of a dog is said to be 10.1 hours per day. Like humans, dogs have two types of sleep: slow wave and rapid eye movement in which dreams occur. Maximum time it spends by sleeping. It waits in front of animal slaughters market and any ceremonies for the wastage of rice and flesh. Germs from human mouth to dogs are easily transmitted by this way. Only at dawn this is active but later gradually jobless. From 5-9 am it

is active, then 10-11 sleep, 12-2/3 pm feeding time in front of restaurants/on road/on sand/anywhere, 3-4 sleep, 5-9 feeding and finally 10 pm-4 am guard/sleeping.

RESULTS

Dog bites: Railway side there some dogs are slept but sudden attack by human without any reasons are common. Some peoples are got injury to disturb these animals. In a leisure time it licks its legs by mouth. So rabies viruses are commonly found in its claws. Street dogs are mostly fatal when they attack to people for spreading rabies virus. Its sharp claws with powerful muscle can lacerate flesh in a scratch that can lead to serious infections³⁷. It has been estimated around 2% of dog-related injuries treated in UK hospitals which are domestic accidents. In the United States, about 10,000 cases of *Toxocara* infection are reported in humans each year, and almost 14% of the US population is infected. Dog feces can also contain hookworms that cause cutaneous larva migrans in humans^{18, 6, 35}. Dogs are also susceptible to some parasites as fleas, ticks and mites, and hookworm, tapeworm, roundworm and heartworm. Dogs are also vulnerable to some of the same human diseases like diabetes, dental and heart disease, epilepsy, cancer, hypothyroidism and arthritis. According to National Pet Owner Survey in 2009-2010, it is estimated that there are 77.5 million people with pet dogs in the United States. The same survey shows nearly 40% of American households own at least one dog, of which 67% own just one dog, 25% two dogs and nearly 9% more than two dogs. It is estimated that 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs each year (questions and answers about dog bites). 77% of dog bites are from the pet of family and 50% of attacks occur on the dog owner's property (Statistics USA). A person bitten by an animal

potentially carrying parvovirus or rabies should consult a physician immediately. A bite victim may also incur serious bacterial infections of the bone called osteomyelitis which can become life-threatening and untreated. In Bangladesh at the time of early breeding season (October-December) they are more active and ferocious all time. Approximately 2-4% dog bites are responsible for human hospitalization^{39, 5}. The aggressive behaviour of dogs comes from genetical, environmental and developmental causes¹². In Bangladesh more than 2000 death per year which happened for stray dogs whereas 55,000 per year in the world (WHO website). When dogs are increased they are killed by drowning, electrocution and poisoning (strychnine). Various chemicals are worldwide used for dog killing- formalin, ether, cyanide, air embolism, burning, hypothermia, rapid freezing, barbiturate, thiopentone and propofenol. In developed country wild animals are responsible for rabies transmission. However, the co-existence of human and dog in a same place it causes the health threats of human^{32, 25}. All pets as well as dogs are the reservoir of zoonotic diseases²⁰. After dog bites 95-99% cases are fatal for hydrophobia and most incidents are happened in rural area and sufferers are poor children¹.

Aristocratic life: Pet dogs are monitored with a aristocratic one. Street dogs are dirty in nature. In Bangladesh it is used only in house protection as guard and natural scavenging animal. There are huge documentary films of dogs. A comparable life-touching film named 'A dog's life' by Charlie Chaplin is famous. Inter and intra species struggle is common anywhere especially for food. Dogs can be easily identifying its master by scent. Any ceremony where scented food are available strangely dogs are invited. When nature is hot dogs sit or lie on sand or stand in low water. It's tongue release the sweat. Dogs are circus animal when

they are exotic or fancy. As foreign dogs spaniel, shepherd, Japanese spitz are common in Bangladesh. Within these German shepherd or police dog (good for track and trail of thieves) and labrador (expert at swimming) are very common in our police department. The typical lifespan of dogs varies widely among breeds, but for most ranges from 10 to 13 years^{33,23}.

Painful life: On the road side when it sleeps sudden water/hot water falls on its body or beat by weapon which is fatal of its life. In Bangladesh I have seen some dogs which have no tail and one leg for the peoples' activities.

Stereo-typed behavior: At the great dead of night it makes mourning sound because it could receive from long distances unwanted sound and it got feared. At the time of neonate it has gained more learning behaviour from human¹⁴. Sub-adult stages of dogs are more plasticity for its better learning¹⁶. The cranial capacity of dog is smaller than wolf^{38,8}. In dogs the females are mated with several males³⁰ which are not usual in wolf²⁸. In wolf more than two pups produce in a season but are killed by mother and survive only one²⁸. Males are more aggressive in breeding season and females are after birth²⁹.

DISCUSSION

In domestic dogs, sexual maturity begins around six to twelve months for both males and females¹⁰, although this can be delayed until up to two years old for some large breeds. Bitch will experience subsequent estrous cycles biannually. 2–5 days post conception fertilization occurs, 14–16 days embryo attaches to uterus 22–23 days⁷. In general, toy dogs produce from 1-4 puppies in each litter, while much larger breeds as many as twelve. Neutering refers sterilization of males usually by removal of testes and females ovaries and uterus for avoiding the overpopulation in some countries. Neutering reduces hypersexuality in male dogs¹⁷.

Spayed females are less develops some forms of cancer, affecting mammary glands other diseases of reproductive organs²⁶. Sometimes, neutering increases the risk of urinary incontinence in female dogs² and prostate cancer in males¹⁹. This is an act of against animal ethics. In Christianity, dogs represent faithfulness. In Asian countries such as China, Korea and Japan dogs are viewed as kind protectors.

CONCLUSION

The domestic dog is a subspecies of the grey wolf, and shares many of its behavioral characteristics. From a young age, dogs engage in play with one another. This behavior is most common in puppies, is training for important behaviour later in life. Most owners prefer a canine that is easily trained such as labrador, German shepherd, poodle, and collie. Humans want to become familiar with canine personalities because canines are very useful to humans. Humans use canines for hunting, herding, sledding, rescue missions, drug findings, guiding the blind, as well as a lovely companion at home. It is neglected in Bangladesh and a great nonsense example to human. Like dogs we occasionally use foolish as ass, food as cow, all doing as goat, boar as dirty, aggressiveness as dog etc all are very common slang sentences in our mouth. Though dogs are the origin from wolf so naturally within its mouth it carries rabies virus or this is serious carnivorous animal. Not hit on them or irritate. We could very careful handling of dogs. Sometimes due to fighting of dogs on street vehicle riding peoples are affected but this is very rare. Due to take huge wastage food and adequate sleep dogs are becoming fat in Bangladesh. It needs extra care and different breeding ground for the next generation.

REFERENCES

1. Ahmed B, Sultana Y, Rabies elimination strategy of Bangladesh: status of implementation. *Bangladesh J Med Microbiol.* 2013., 7(1): 01.
2. Arnold S, Urinary incontinence in castrated bitches. Part 1: Significance, clinical aspects and etiopathogenesis. *Schweizer Archiv Für Tierheilkunde (in German)* 139. 1997., (6): 271–286.
3. Bradley J, Breeds and behaviour. *NCRC. The Bark.* 2011., No. 64.
4. Byrne RW, Whiten A, Machiavellian intelligence: social expertise and the evolution of intellect in monkeys, apes and humans. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1988.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National dog bite-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments- United States, 2001. *MMWR.* 2003., 52: 605-628.
6. Chiodo P, Basualdo J, Ciarmela L, Pezzani B, Apezteguía M, Minvielle M, Related factors to human toxocariasis in a rural community of Argentina. *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz.* 2006., 101 (4): 397–400. doi:10.1590/S0074-02762006000400009
7. Concannon P, Tsutsui T, Shille V, Embryo development, hormonal requirements and maternal responses during canine pregnancy. *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility. Supplement.* 2001., 57: 169–79.
8. Coppinger R, Coppinger L, *Dogs.* Scribner, New York. 2001.
9. Coppinger R, Schneider R, Evolution of working dogs. In: Serpell J (Ed.). *The domestic dog: its evolution, behaviour and interactions with people.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 1995., pp. 21-47.
10. Dewey T, Bhagat S, *Canis lupus familiaris,* Animal Diversity Web. 2002., Retrieved 6 January 2009.
11. Dohoo IR, McDonell WN, Rhodes CS, Elazhary YL, *Veterinary Research and Human Health.* Canadian Veterinary Journal. 1998., 39: 549-556.
12. Duffy DL, Hsu Y, Serpell JA, Breed differences in canine aggression. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* 2008., doi:10.1016/j.applanim.2008.04.006
13. Federsen-Petersen DU, Social behaviour of dogs and related canids. In: Jensen P (Ed.). *The behavioural biology of dogs.* CAB International, Wellingford, UK. 2007., pp. 105-119.
14. Fox MW, The influence of domestication upon behaviour of animals. In: Fox MW (Ed.).

- Abnormal behaviour in animals. Saunders, Philadelphia. 1968., pp. 64-76.
15. Frank H, Evolution of canine information processing under conditions of natural and artificial selection. *Z. Tierpsychol.* 1980., 59: 389-399.
 16. Hediger H, Tierpsychologie and Haustierforschung. *Z. Tierpsychol.* 1938., Z 29-46.
 17. Heidenberger E, Unshelm JE, Changes in the behavior of dogs after castration. *Tierärztliche Praxis (in German).* 1990., 18 (1): 69–75.
 18. Johnson K, Parasites in pet feces cause puzzling infection. *Pediatric News.* 2002.
 19. Johnston SD, Kamolpatana K, Root-Kustritz MV, Johnston GR, SD, Prostatic disorders in the dog. *Anim. Reprod. Sci.* 2000., 60–61: 405–15. doi:10.1016/S0378-4320(00)00101-9
 20. Kornblatt AN, Schantz PM, Veterinary and public health considerations in canine roundworm control. A survey of practicing veterinarians. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association.* 1980., 195: 1212-1215.
 21. Lindsay SR, Handbook of applied dog behaviour and training. Vol. 1. Adaptation and Learning. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. 2000., p.12.
 22. Mech LD, The wolf: the behaviour and ecology of an endangered species. Natural History Press, New York. 1970.
 23. Michell AR, Longevity of British breeds of dog and its relationships with sex, size, cardiovascular variables and disease. *The Veterinary Record* 145 1999., (22): 625–629. doi:10.1136/vr.145.22.625
 24. Miklosi A, Polgardi R, Topal J, Csanyi V, Intentional behaviour in dog-human communication: an experimental analysis of “showing” behaviour in the dog. *Anim. Cogn.* 2000., 3, 159-168.
 25. Molyneux DH, Neglected diseases but unrecognized success- challenges and opportunities for infectious disease control. *Lancet.* 2004., 364: 380-383.
 26. Morrison WB, Cancer in dogs and cats (1st ed.). Williams and Wilkins. 1998.
 27. Murphy LA, Coleman AE, Xylitol toxicosis in dogs. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice.* 2012., 42 (2): 307. doi:10.1016/j.cvsm.2011.12.003
 28. Packard JH, Wolf behaviour: reproductive, social and intelligent. In: Mech LD, Boitani L (Eds.). *Wolves: behaviour, ecology and conservation.* University of Chicago Press, IL. 2003., pp. 35-65.
 29. Pal SK, Ghosh B, Roy S, Agonistic behaviour of free-ranging dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in relation to season, sex and age. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* 1998., 59: 331-348.
 30. Pal SK, Ghosh B, Roy S, Inter- and intra-sexual behaviour of free-ranging dogs (*Canis familiaris*). *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* 1999., 62: 267-278.

31. Parker HG, Kim LV, Sutter NB, Carlson S, Lorentzen TD, Malek TB, Johnson GS, Defrance HB et al, Genetic structure of the purebred domestic dog. *Science* 304. 2004., (5674): 1160–1164. Bibcode:2004Sci...304.1160P. doi:10.1126/science.1097406
32. Robertson ID, Irwin PJ, Lymbery AJ, Thompson RCA, The role of companion animals in the emergence of parasitic disease. *International Journal of Parasitology*. 2000., 30: 1369-1377.
33. Roschowsky HF, Rugbjerg H, Ersbell AK, Mortality of purebred and mixed-breed dogs in Denmark. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*. 2003., 58(1–2): 63–74. doi:10.1016/S0167-5877(03)00010-2
34. Sherman CK, Reisner IR, Taliaferro LA, Houpt KA, Characteristics, treatment, and outcome of 99 cases of aggression between dogs. 1996., 47: 91-108.
35. Talaizadeh AH, Maraghi S, Jelowdar A, Peyvasteh M, Human toxocariasis: A report of 3 cases. *Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences Quarterly*. 2007., 23(5). Part I.
36. Tarafder M, Samad MA, Prevalence of clinical diseases of pet dogs and risk perception of zoonotic infection by dog owners in Bangladesh. *Bangl. J. Vet. Med*. 2010., 8(2): 163-174.
37. Tierney DM, Strauss LP, Sanchez JL, Captocytophaga canimorsus mycotic abdominal aortic aneurysm: why the mailman is afraid of dogs. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. 2006., 44 (2): 649–51. doi:10.1128/JCM.44.2.649-651.2006
38. Wayne RK, Cranial morphology of domestic and wild canids: the influence of development on morphological change. *Evolution*. 1986., 40: 243-261.
39. Weiss HB, Friedman DI, Coben JH, Incidence of dog bite injuries treated in emergency departments. *J. Am. Med. Assoc*. 1998., 279: 51-53.

Corresponding Author: M Ashraful Kabir, Lecturer in Zoology, Cantonment Public School and College, Saidpur Cantonment 5311, District- Nilphamari, Bangladesh.