

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF FREE-RANGING DOGS IN GEORGETOWN (GAMBIA)



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(June 2020)



OBJECTIVES

- ### 1 DESIGN A RESEARCH PROJECT

To explain the social behavior of free-ranging dogs in the Gambia
- ### 2 ETHOGRAM

Create a list of all the normal behaviors.
- ### 3 SOCIAL HIERARCHY

Study the presence or absence of social hierarchy among the dogs observed.
- ### 4 METHODS TO OBTAIN DATA

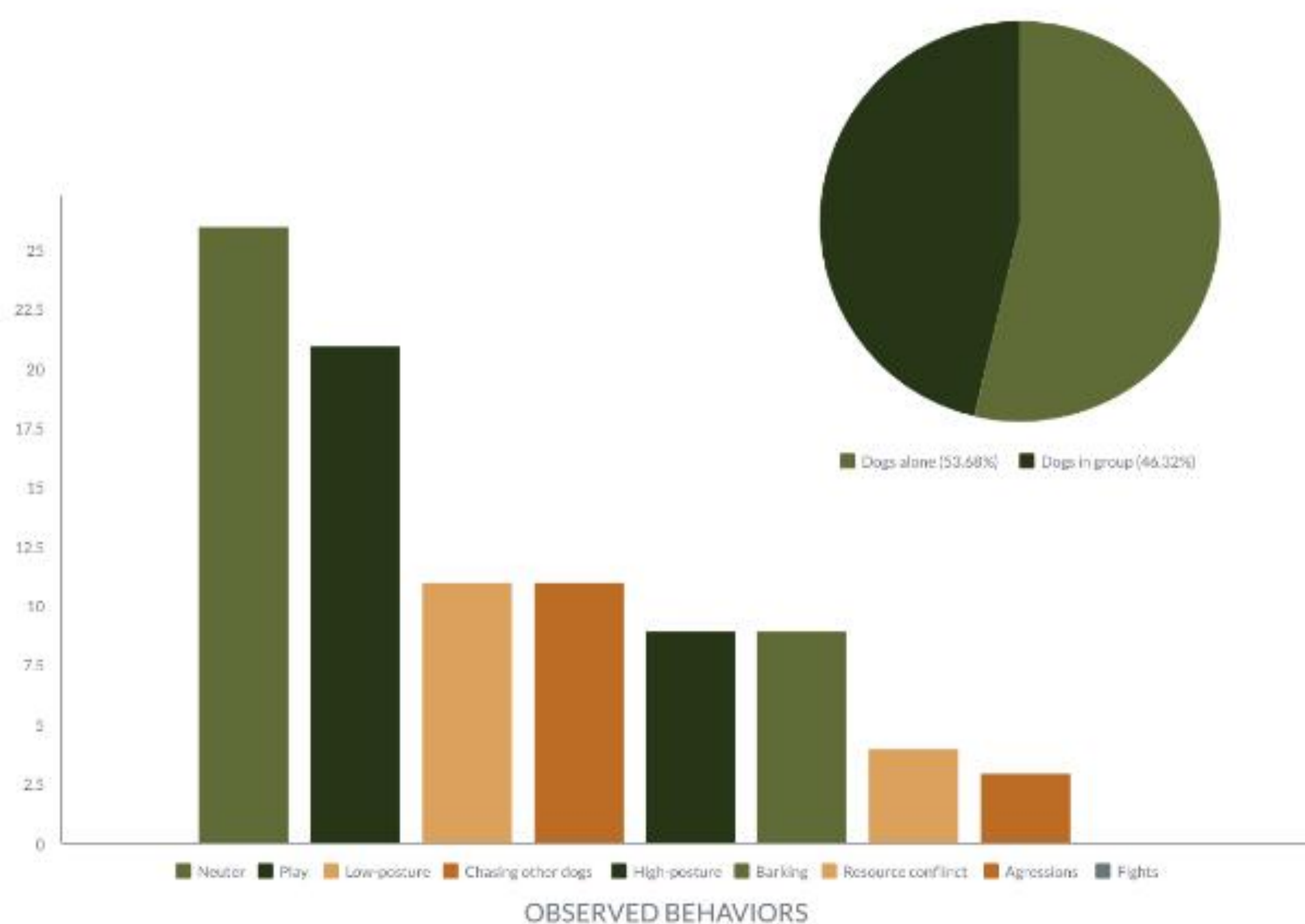
Choose the observation area and schedule, the individuals that are going to be observed and the recording methods.

WHY?

<p>Low human interference</p> <p>So, the behavior observed could be used as a reference for normal dog behavior.</p>	<p>Improve welfare and population handling</p> <p>Benefits of knowing dog behavior.</p>	<p>Better dog-human coexistence</p> <p>It would lead to less accidents and abandonments.</p>
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RESULTS

The dogs seemed to group randomly, and they didn't show any evident hierarchical behavior.



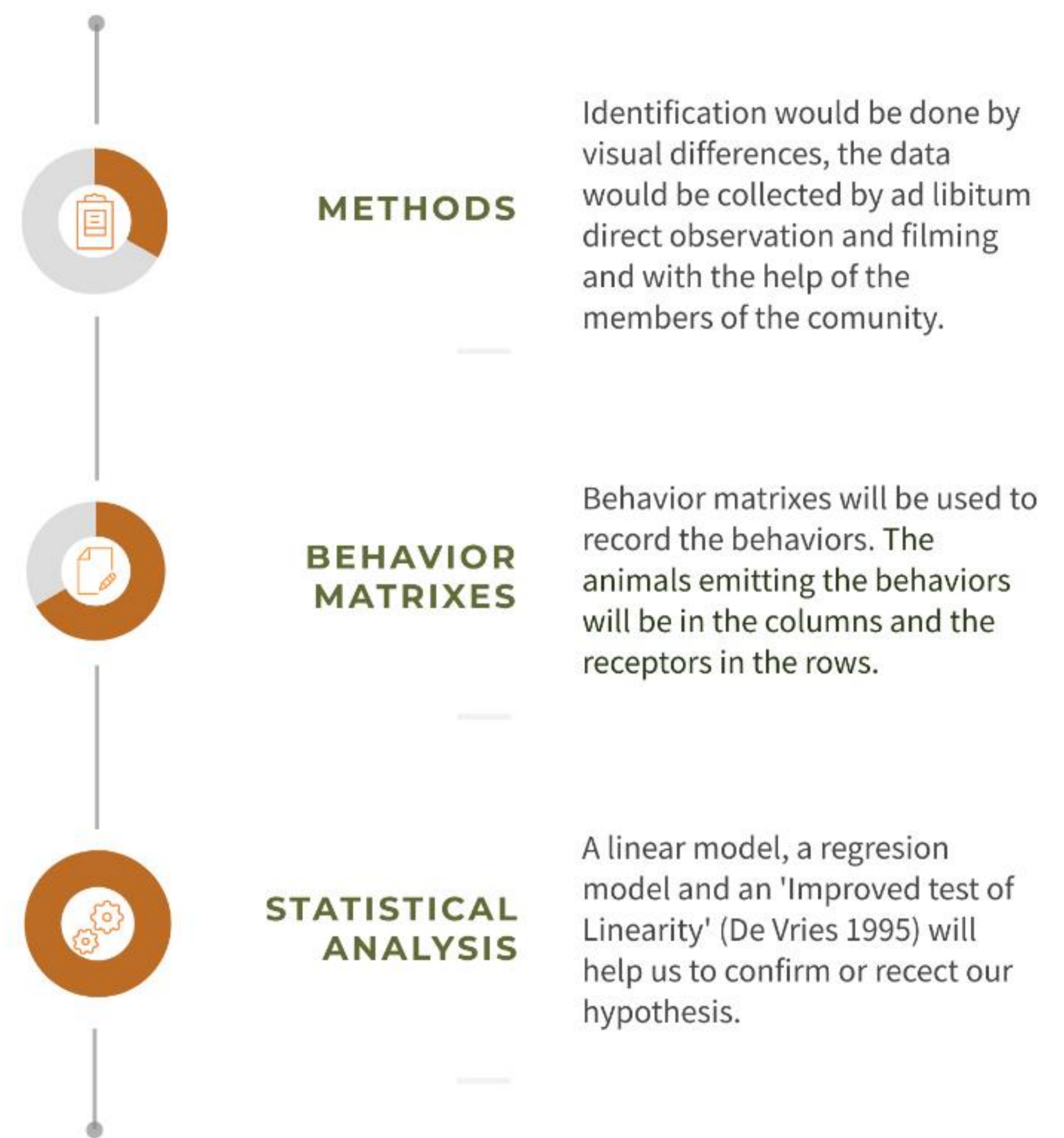
They spent most of the time sleeping, foraging, rolling around the mud and playing. Conflicts were unfrequent.

After the preliminary results we discussed...

OUR HYPOTHESIS

Dogs in Georgetown do not set up social groups hierarchically organized.

HOW WOULD WE PROVE IT?



CLUES TO IMPROVE THE RESEARCH

- A proper **dog ethogram** is needed to keep on doing research about their social behavior.
- There is a need to collect data in an objective way. **Double-blinded tests and using quantitative data** would be essential to get significant results.
- Time-budget, social play, communication and human-dog interaction are interesting subjects for **further research**.