

Is there a relationship between a poor socialization and an increased probability of behavioral problems in dogs?

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Introduction

The socialization period ranges from **3 to 12 weeks** of age. This is a critical period in the life of the puppy, in which we must expose them to new experiences, animals, objects, people of different age or sex and noises. The lack of exposure in this period can result in the creation of inappropriate responses as an adult, such as fear or aggression.

Objectives

- This is an **experimental project** that tries to establish the relationship between the puppies experiences and their influence on the adult behavior.
- It will focus on the description and analysis of the results obtained in the survey conducted, with the help of other investigations.

Results of the survey

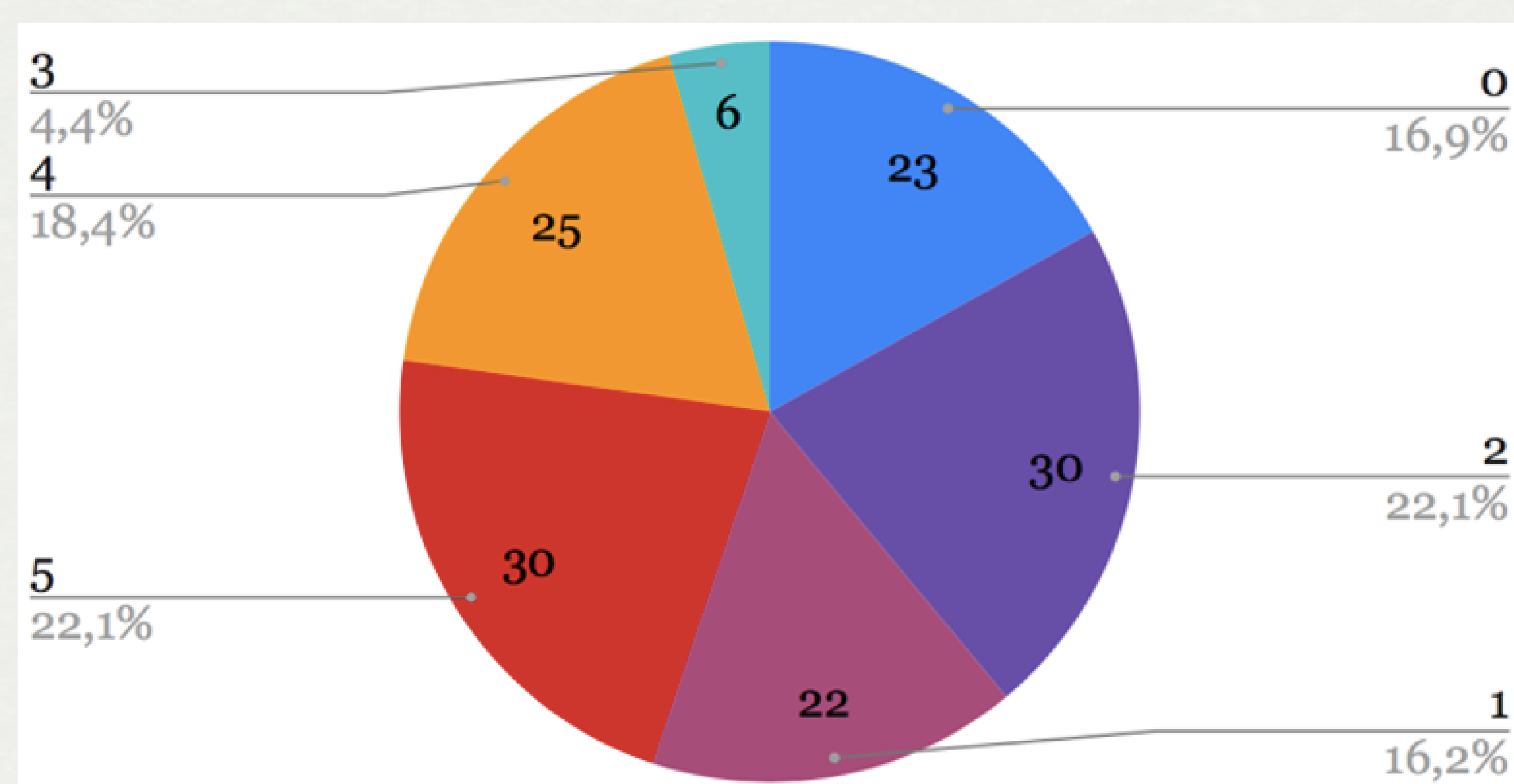


Figure 1. Percentage of dogs that have bitten, growled or bared their teeth in some situation.

Graphic legend: 0= No, 1= People, 2= Dogs, 3= Other (another animal, fast moving object), 4= People + Dogs, 5= People + Dogs + Other

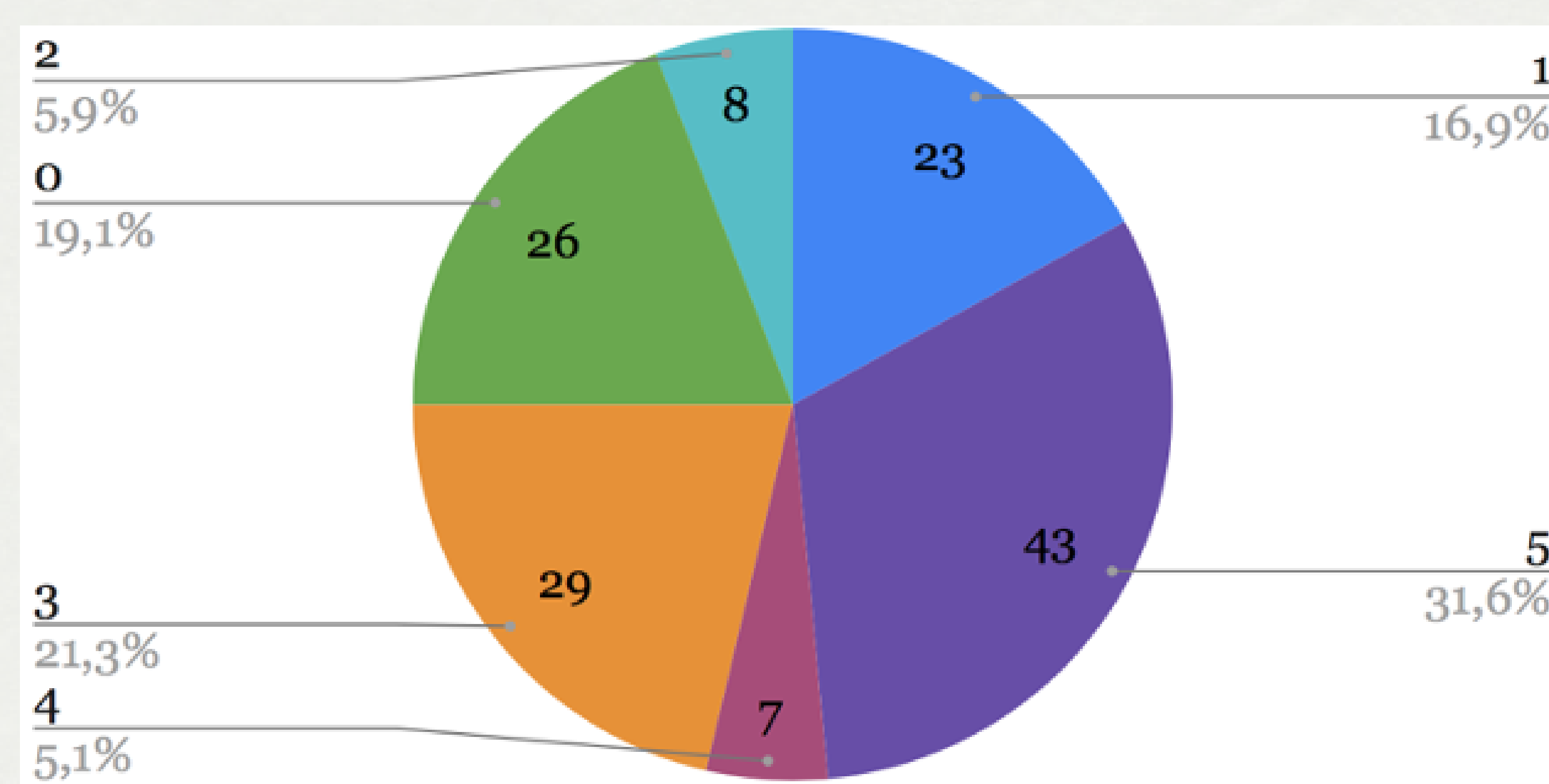
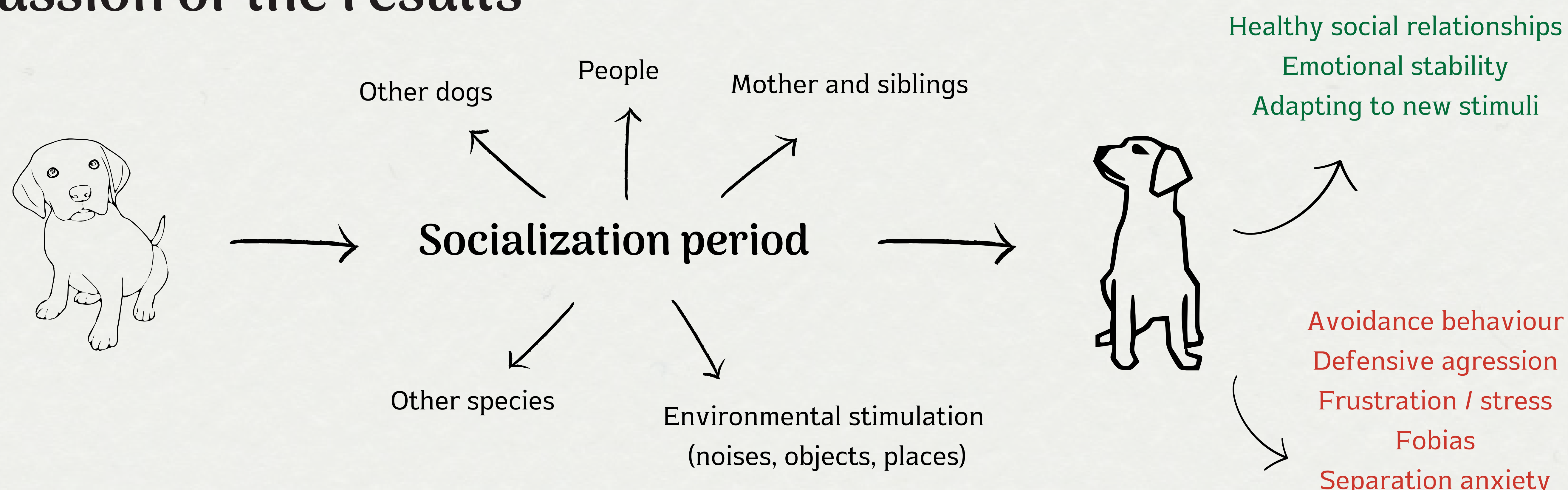


Figure 2. Percentage of dogs that have shown signs of fear in some situation.

Graphic legend: 0= No, 1= People, 2= Dogs, 3= Other (another animal, fast moving object, loud sound), 4= People + Dogs, 5= People + Dogs + Other

Discussion of the results



Conclusions

- Adults show a high percentage of fear and aggression behaviors towards people, dogs, fast moving objects and loud sounds.
- With the results and information from the research we hypothesize that the lack of experiences in the socialization stage does explain the appearance of behavioral problems in the adult dog.
- We should prevent behavioral problems by ensuring a good socialization, with the help of veterinarians, trainers and owners.
- There is still much to be known about the socialization period and more research should be done to understand its repercussions on the behavior of the adult dog.