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Dog rearing practices adopted by Rajapalayam dog breeders in its native tract

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Abstract

A study was conducted in the breeding tract of Rajapalayam dog breed to record the rearing practices adopted by the breeders. (Housing, feeding and health management). Majority of them (89.58 per cent) maintain their dog with an individual shelter provision inside their house. Majority (72.92 per cent) of the dog shelter is having concrete finishing. From the survey, it was observed that only 33.33 per cent of the survey population vaccinate their dog against Rabies and about 60.42 per cent of them vaccinate their dogs against all diseases. Around half of the surveyed population dewormed their dogs at six month interval. More than fifty percent of the respondents followed the external parasite control measures. Most of the dog breeders did not prepare any special food for their dogs/pets. Whatever they were preparing for their use has been share with them.

Keywords: Rajapalayam dog, breeders, rearing, practices

Introduction

The Rajapalayam dogs are more familiar among the pet owners and breeders as guarding dogs due to its delightful appearance and hardy nature (Figure 1 & 2). Rajapalayam Taluk of Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu, India is the breeding tract of this dog breed. History is replete with information about the origin of this dog but no solid evidence exists to prove its exact origin. The Rajapalayam dogs have a pure white coat colour with pink colour skin. The peculiarity of this breed is the pure white coat with pink colour nose. However, most of the people were unaware about the authentic details of this breed. The main reasons for such oversights being the unavailability of scientific studies about this dog breed. Keeping this point in deliberation, a study was carried out collect information on rearing practices followed by the dog owners to sketch a scientific package of practices of the above indigenous breed of dog.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the breeding tract of Rajapalayam dog breed. The breeding tract of this breed is Rajapalayam Taluk of Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu. Dog owners who maintained this breed for more than five years were randomly selected. To record the existing rearing practices (Housing, feeding and health management) a structured questionnaire was prepared and necessary information was collected from the dog owner by direct interview.

Result and Discussion

The various parameters related to housing, feeding, vaccination and deworming were listed in the table 1. Majority of the Rajapalayam dog owners (89.58 per cent) maintain their dog with an individual shelter provision inside their house. Majority (72.92 per cent) of the dog shelter is having concrete finishing. The research findings on preference for breed and feeding practices for dog rearing in Nagpur city of Maharashtra revealed that, most of the dog breeders housed the dog inside their home without any separate housing provisions (Sawaimul *et al.*, 2009) [3]. The similar findings were observed from the dog keepers in Central Kerala (Kumar *et al.*, 2004) [2]. In contrary, Hedge *et al* (2009) [1] reported that majority of the dog owners kept their dog in a separate house in Akola city of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state.

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Fig 1: Rajapalayam Dog (Male)



Fig 2: Rajapalayam Dog (Female)

Table 1: Rearing practices adopted by the Rajapalayam dog owners

S. No	Profile	No of respondents (48)	Percentage
Housing management			
1	Provision of shelter		
	Yes	43	89.58
	No	5	10.42
2	Location of the shelter		
	Inside the house	38	79.17
	Away from the house	10	20.83
3	Roofing		0.00
	Thatched	6	12.50
	Asbestos	9	18.75
	Tiles	5	10.42
	Metal roof	6	12.50
	Others	22	45.83
4	Flooring		
	Kaccha/ Earthen floor	13	27.08
	Pucca cement	35	72.92
Feeding management			
1	Feed offered		
	Vegetarian	12	25.00
	Non vegetarian	36	75.00
2	Source of food		
	Home made	33	68.75
	Commercial products	15	31.25
Vaccination practice			
1	No vaccination	3	6.25
2	Vaccinated against rabies	16	33.33
3	Vaccinated against all the diseases	29	60.42
Deworming practice			
1	Deworming		
	Yes	41	85.42
	No	7	14.58
2	Deticking		
	Yes	26	54.17
	No	22	45.83
3	Frequency of deworming		
	Once in 3 months	9	18.75
	Once in 6 months	22	45.83
	Once in a year	10	20.83
4	Frequency of deticking		
	Once in 3 months	4	8.33
	Once in 6 months	9	18.75
	Once in a year	13	27.08

Most of the dog breeders did not prepare any special food for their dogs/pets. Whatever they were preparing for their use has been share with them. Only few of the commercial dog breeders provide small amount of commercially available branded dog food. Majority of the dog owners fed their dogs

with non vegetarian food (75 per cent) made from their house (68.75 per cent). The research findings on Preference of breed and feeding practices for dog rearing in Nagpur city of Maharashtra revealed that most of the dog breeders fed their dog with the mix (Veg and Non veg) 2 to 3 times a day

(Sawaimul *et al.*, 2009) ^[3]. Similarly, Hedge *et al* (2009) ^[1] reported that majority of them (89%) offered mix feed (Veg and Non-veg) 3 to 4 times in a day in Akola city of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state.

The dog breeders are well aware about vaccination schedule and used to vaccinate the dogs based on the advice of nearby Veterinarian. Most of the dog owners vaccinate their stock only against Rabies. From the survey it was observe that 33.33 per cent of the survey population vaccinate only against Rabies and about 60.42 per cent of them vaccinate their dogs against other diseases.

The survey reveal that the dog breeders has adequate knowledge on the importance of deworming. The deworming is being practiced only during the free health or vaccination campaign organized by the state animal husbandry department or by local voluntary organizations. Proper deworming schedule is being practiced by commercial dog breeders. Around half of the surveyed dog owners are dewormed their dogs at six month interval. More than fifty percent of the respondents follow the external parasite control measures.

The research findings on Preference for breed and feeding practices for dog rearing in Nagpur city of Maharashtra revealed that vaccination of dogs found to be routine practice (Sawaimul *et al.*, 2009) ^[3]. Similar findings were reported by Hedge *et al* (2009) ^[1] in Akola city of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state.

The survey revealed that the commercial dog breeders had adequate knowledge on dog rearing practices and take better care than the peoples who reared the dog in their home for guarding purpose. The awareness among the commercial dog breeders about the overall care and management of their dog also appreciable than the one who maintain as pet/ guarding dog.

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