

Rearing Practices Adopted for Rajapalayam Dog Breed in its Native Tract

R. Selvakkumar¹

Veterinary University Training and Research Centre
Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)
Nagercoil - 629601
Dist. Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)

Abstract

The study was conducted in breeding tract of Rajapalayam dog breed to record the prevalent rearing practices. Majority of the Rajapalayam dog owners (89.58 percent) maintained their dogs with individual shelter provision inside their house with concrete finishing (72.92 percent). 33.33 percent of the survey population vaccinate their dogs only against Rabies and about 60.42 percent vaccinate their dogs against all diseases. Around half of the surveyed dog owners dewormed their dogs at every six months interval. More than fifty percent of the respondents followed external parasite control measures. Most of the dog breeders do not prepare any special food for their dogs/ pets. The dogs were fed with home made food only.

Keywords: Dog; practice; Rajapalayam; rearing

Introduction

The Rajapalayam dogs are more familiar among the pet owners and breeders as guarding dogs due to their delightful appearance and hardy nature (Fig. 1 and 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 the breed is the pure white coat with pink colour nose. However, most of people who are not familiar with Rajapalayam breed are 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 to collect information on rearing practices followed by the dog owners and to sketch a scientific package of practices for Rajapalayam breed of dog.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in 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 were collected from dog owner by direct interview.

Results and Discussion

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

Most dog breeders do not prepare any special food for their dogs/pets. All household cooked items were shared with their pets. Only few commercial dog breeders provide small amount of commercially available branded dog food. Majority of dog owners fed their dogs with non-vegetarian food (75 percent) made in-house (68.75 percent). 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) 2-3 times a day (Sawaimul *et al.*, 2009). Similarly, Hedge *et al.* (2009) reported that majority of them (89%) offered mix feed (veg and non-veg) 3-4 times in a day in Akola city of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state.

1. Assistant Professor/ Head and Corresponding author.
E-mail: rskmrps@gmail.com

Rajapalayam in native tract



Fig. 1: Rajapalayam male



Fig. 2: Rajapalayam female

Table 1: Rearing practices adopted by Rajapalayam dog owners

S. No	Profile	No of respondents (48)	Percentage
1	Housing management		
	Provision of shelter		
	Yes	43	89.58
	No	5	10.42
2	Location of shelter		
	Inside the house	38	79.17
	Away from house	10	20.83
3	Roofing		
	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

S. No	Profile	No of respondents (48)	Percentage
1	Vaccination practice		
	No vaccination	3	6.25
	Vaccinated against rabies	16	33.33
	Vaccinated against all diseases	29	60.42
2	Deworming practice		
	Deworming		
	Yes	41	85.42
	No	7	14.58
3	Deticking		
	Yes	26	54.17
	No	22	45.83
4	Deworming frequency		
	Once in 3 months	9	18.75
	Once in 6 months	22	45.83
	Once in a year	10	20.83
5	Deticking frequency		
	Once in 3 months	4	8.33
	Once in 6 months	9	18.75
	Once in a year	13	27.08

The dog breeders are well aware about vaccination schedule and used to vaccinate the dogs based on the advice of near by Veterinarian. Most dog owners, vaccinate their stock only against Rabies. From the survey, it was observed that 33.33 percent of the survey population vaccinate only against Rabies and

about 60.42 percent of them vaccinate their dogs against all diseases.

The survey revealed that dog breeders has adequate knowledge on importance of deworming. The deworming is being practiced only during the free health or vaccination campaign organized by 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 have 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 is found to be routine practice (Sawaimul *et al.*, 2009). Similar findings were reported by Hedge *et al.* (2009) in Akola city of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state.

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

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Received on: 08.03.2020

Accepted on: 04.05.2020

Dr. Ghuman takes over as Dean, CVSc, GADVASU



Recently, Dr. Sarvpreet Singh Ghuman was appointed as Dean, College of Veterinary Science, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, Punjab. Lastly, Dr. Ghuman was serving as Head of University Hospital Complex, GADVASU before resuming charge as College Dean.

Dr. Ghuman has more than twenty five years of experience in teaching, research and extension in various areas of reproductive biology. He hold his Doctorate degree in Animal Reproduction from University of Liverpool, UK under Commonwealth Scholarship program. He has more than 190 scientific publications, 12 review papers, 74 invited papers, 53 books, monographs and manuals as well as 133 popular articles to his credit. During the research tenure, he has been associated with 21 research projects and has also served as editor of Indian Journal of Animal Reproduction (IJAR).

Intas Polivet wishes Dr. Ghuman a successful and accomplishing tenure as College Dean and hope that his expertise would be helping GADVASU to grown and expand.