

Paw Dominance



Abstract

Have you ever thought of your dog having paw dominance? Well, let me introduce you to my dog 1812. He was the was the inspiration to this science fair project, and he happens to be left paw dominant. We will be testing whether or not dogs have a paw preference or dominance. We will test our neighbors' dogs and see if they use one paw more than the other by using tricks, toys, and treats. Don't worry, no dogs were harmed during this testing.



Big Question

Do dogs have a paw dominance like people have a dominant hand?



Hypothesis

I think that dogs have a paw dominance similar to how people have a dominant hand.

Notice how this dog is using its left paw?



Materials

I created a survey, I used a clipboard. I might need to use the dog's favorite toy or ball. I might need to give the dogs treats to keep them excited in the experiment. I will need the permission and help of the owners in case the dogs are nervous around kids/strangers. I maybe will use treats the dog likes to make them more comfortable around us.

Is your dog right or left paw dominant?

Have you ever thought if your dog had a paw dominance?	Yes	No
Have you noticed your dog using one paw more than the other?	Yes <i>Don't know</i>	No
Does your dog know any tricks using their paw like paw, high five, or knuckles?	Yes	No
Does your dog normally paw at the door to go outside or come in?	Yes	No
Does your dog paw at things like treats or toys?	Yes	No
Can I observe your dog to see which paw they use most often?	Yes	No

Dog's Name	<i>Bonnie</i>
Dog's Age	<i>5</i>

The tricks the dog does using its paws.	Left	<i>NO</i>	Right
Dog paws at door	Left	<i>NO</i>	Right
Dog paws at treats or toy	Left	<i>NO</i>	Right
First Steps the dog takes	Left	<i>NO</i>	Right

right

Procedures

I am designing an experiment to test the paw dominance of dogs. We have noticed that my dog, 1812, uses his left paw more than his right paw. We also know a dog named Sparky that uses his left paw to do tricks like “Knuckles” and “high five.” We also know neighbors that have one or two dogs in the house. My plan is to create a survey asking owners about their observations on the paw dominance of their dog to determine how many dogs are right paw dominant and left paw dominant on our street.

Data

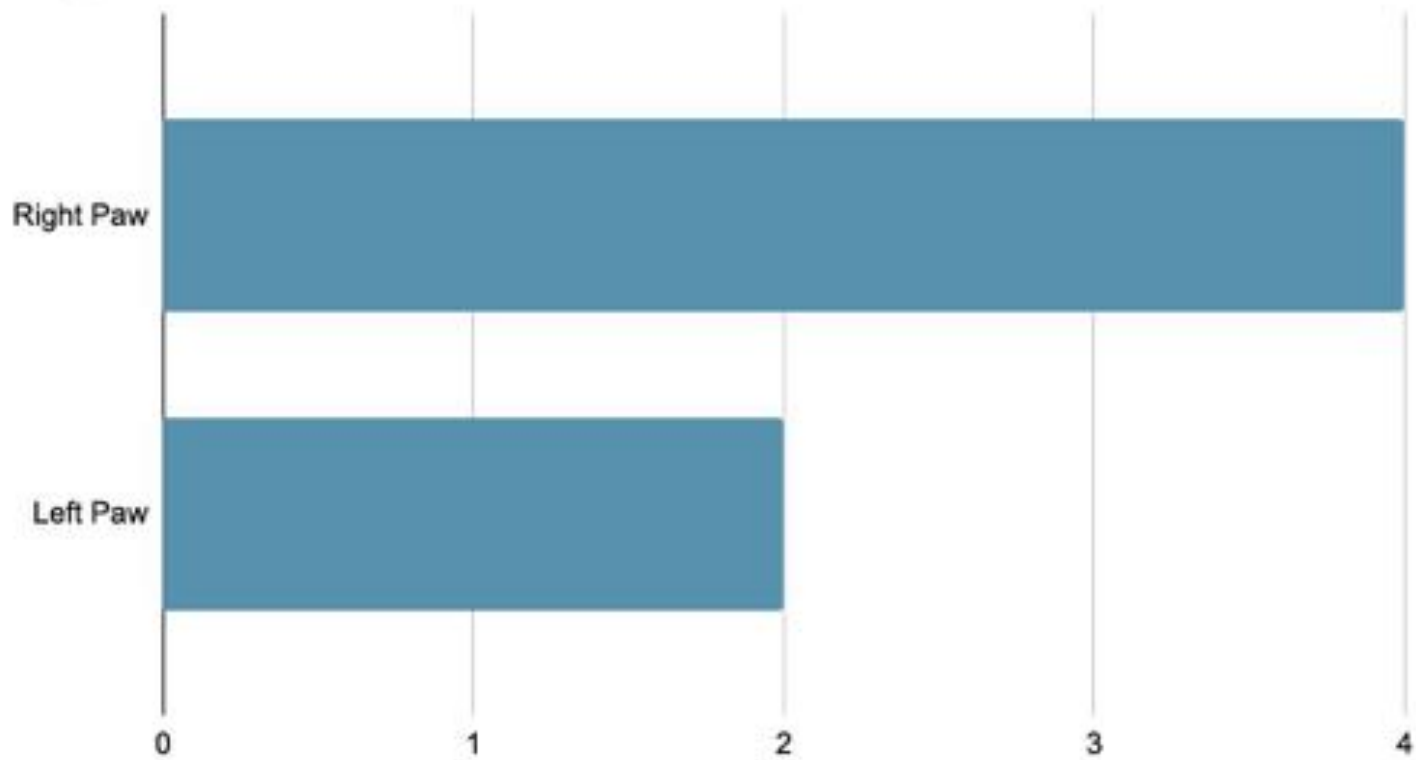
I tested a total of 6 dogs. Two of the dogs I tested, I found were left paw dominant. The other 4 dogs were right paw dominant.

Meet Waylon and Doeser, two brothers who both tested as right paw dominant using their favorite treats and toy.



Graphs

Dogs tested



Results

I found out that dogs can have paw dominance and that the dogs I have tested, have a result in more right paw dominance than there was left in my neighborhood.



Conclusion

In conclusion, I can say that the dogs I have tested, do have a paw that they use more than the other. Of the 6 dogs I was able to watch 4 had used their right paw more than the other two dogs that were left paw dominant. So, watch your dogs carefully to see if you notice what your dogs paw dominance is.



Research

In the articles, *Is Your Dog Right or Left Pawed?* and *Dominant Paws: Is Your Dog a Righty or Lefty* they mention ways to test for your dogs paw dominance. Some ideas included trying the dog's favorite treats and tricks that the owners have trained their dogs to do. With my dog we watched how he paws at the door to go outside and when he wants back in. It also recommended watching the dog for 50 tricks if using a favorite toy.

I used the article, *Teaching Dog Safety To Children* to prepare myself on how to work with dogs from different families.

Bibliography

Is Your Dog Right or Left Pawed?

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Teaching Dog Safety To Children

www.petassure.com/new-newsletters/teaching-dog-safety-to-children/

Dominant Paws: Is Your Dog a Righty or Lefty

www.hillspet.com/dog-care/behavior-appearance/do-dogs-have-dominant-paws