

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 9; SP-Issue 6; June 2026; Page No. 93-97

Received: 14-03-2026
Accepted: 18-04-2026

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Comparative evaluation of welfare and management practices in purebred and non-descript dogs in Bengaluru city

¹Sooguresh Jaka, ²Vivek M Patil, ³Mahadevappa D Gouri, ⁴PT Ramesh, ⁵Madhusudhan HS and ⁶Harish Shenoy

¹M.V.Sc. Scholar, Department of Livestock Production Management, Veterinary College Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

²Professor & Head of Livestock Farm Complex, Veterinary College Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

³Associate Professor of Department of Livestock Production Management, Veterinary College Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

⁴Professor Registrar, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, Karnataka, India

⁵Associate professor of Department of Animal Nutrition, Veterinary College Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

⁶Scientist, Department of Agronomy, ICAR-KVK, D.K. Kankanady, Mangaluru, Karnataka, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2026.v9.i6Sb.3726>

Corresponding Author: Sooguresh Jaka

Abstract

The present study was conducted to assess pet dog management practices and welfare-related issues in Bengaluru city, Karnataka. The research was carried out at the Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru, by interviewing 400 pet dog owners whose dogs were one year of age and above. A structured interview schedule was used to collect information on walking practices, training methods, grooming routines, use of handling equipment, and constraints faced by dog owners. Dogs were classified based on breed type (purebred and non-descript) and size (toy, medium, and large breeds). The collected data were analysed using Microsoft Excel and standard statistical tools. The results revealed that purebred dogs were walked more frequently and for longer durations compared to non-descript dogs. Purebred dogs also received better training and grooming care. In contrast, many non-descript dogs received minimal exercise, training, and grooming. The use of physical punishment was observed in some cases, particularly among owners of large and non-descript dogs, which negatively impacted animal welfare. Toy breed dogs received more intensive grooming due to their delicate nature. The study also identified major constraints faced by pet owners, including lack of time, financial limitations, limited awareness about proper dog care, and shortage of dog-friendly public spaces. These factors affected the overall quality of care provided to dogs. The study concluded that there is a need to improve awareness about responsible dog ownership and to promote equal welfare for all dogs irrespective of breed. The findings highlight the importance of education programmes, humane training methods, and supportive urban infrastructure to enhance canine welfare in urban settings.

Keywords: Pet dogs, dog welfare, management practices, purebred dogs

Introduction

Dogs have shared a close relationship with humans for thousands of years, evolving from wild animals into loyal companions and working partners. In modern society, dogs serve as pets, service animals, and therapy companions, contributing significantly to human physical, emotional, and social well-being (Selby and Rhoades, 1981) [13]. Interaction with dogs has been shown to reduce stress, encourage physical activity, and provide emotional support, especially in urban environments and post-Covid lifestyles (Machová *et al.*, 2020) [10]. India has a large population of both pet and stray dogs, creating important challenges related to animal welfare, public health, and responsible ownership. Rapid urbanisation and changing lifestyles have increased pet ownership, particularly in metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru. At the same time, the growing pet care industry reflects increased awareness of pet health, nutrition, training, and welfare (Business Standard, 2022) [2]. Proper management practices are essential for ensuring the welfare of dogs. These include adequate nutrition, clean water,

shelter, regular exercise, training, and socialisation. In urban areas, dogs face challenges such as limited space, lack of exercise opportunities, and social isolation, which can negatively affect their physical and mental health (Carter, 2016) [3]. The present study aims to examine pet dog management practices in Bengaluru city and to identify the constraints faced by dog owners. Understanding these practices is important for improving animal welfare, promoting responsible pet ownership, and supporting policy decisions related to dog care and management.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted at the Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka. The study location was selected because it receives a large number of pet dogs from different parts of the city for treatment and routine health care. This provided good opportunities to interact with a diverse group of dog owners. Pet owners who visited the hospital with their dogs were approached in a polite and friendly manner. The purpose of the study was clearly

explained to them before conducting the interview. A structured interview schedule was prepared to collect information from the respondents. The schedule consisted of simple and clear questions related to dog care and management practices. A total of 400 dog owners were selected for the study. Only those owners whose dogs were at least one-year-old were included, as dogs of this age are considered to have established management routines. Dogs were classified into different groups for easy analysis. Based on breed type, they were grouped as purebred and non-descript (desi or mixed breed) dogs. Based on body size, dogs were further categorized into toy, medium, and large breeds. This classification helped in comparing different management and welfare practices among the groups. Data were collected on various aspects of dog care. These included daily walking habits, duration and frequency of exercise, training methods used by the owners, grooming practices such as bathing and brushing, and the use of handling equipment like collars, leashes, and harnesses. Information was also gathered regarding welfare-related challenges such as health problems, behavioural issues, housing difficulties, and owner constraints related to time and resources.

Dogs were categorized based on:

- Breed type: Purebred and Non-descript (desi or mixed)
- Size: Toy, Medium, and Large breeds

After data collection, the responses were carefully checked for completeness and accuracy. The data were entered into Microsoft Excel for organisation and analysis. Standard statistical methods such as frequency, percentage, and mean were used to interpret the results. The analysed data were used to draw meaningful conclusions related to pet dog management and welfare practices in Bengaluru city.

Results and Discussion

Walking Practices

Daily walking was found to be an important aspect of dog

management. Purebred dogs were walked more regularly and for longer periods compared to non-descript dogs. Most purebred dogs were taken for walks in public parks, streets, or community open spaces. In contrast, many non-descript dogs were kept indoors and were not provided regular outdoor exercise. Regular walking was observed to have a positive influence on the physical and mental health of dogs. Dogs that did not receive adequate exercise showed signs of restlessness, anxiety, and destructive behaviour. These findings indicate that proper exercise is essential for maintaining good welfare and overall well-being of pet dogs.

Training Practices

Training plays a significant role in shaping the behaviour of dogs. The majority of purebred dogs received formal training or basic obedience training at home. Common commands taught included “sit”, “stay” and “come”. On the other hand, most non-descript dogs received little or no structured training. The study also observed the use of physical punishment by some dog owners, particularly among owners of non-descript and large breed dogs. The use of harsh handling methods was associated with negative welfare outcomes such as fear, aggression and lack of trust towards owners. These practices were found to adversely affect the emotional and behavioural well-being of dogs.

Grooming Practices

Grooming was found to be an essential component of dog welfare. Purebred dogs were more frequently brushed, bathed and given regular coat and nail care compared to non-descript dogs. Non-descript dogs received minimal grooming attention in many cases. Toy breeds were found to receive the highest level of grooming care due to their small size and delicate nature. Regular grooming was found to improve hygiene, comfort and overall health. These findings highlight the importance of owner involvement in maintaining proper hygiene and comfort for pet dogs.

General care and training of pet dogs according to breed type in Bengaluru (% , unless mentioned).

Parameter	Breed type		Overall (n=400)	P-value
	Purebred (n=295)	Non-Descript (n=105)		
Walks (times/day)	1.41 ± 0.051	0.47 ± 0.08	1.16 ± 0.048	<0.001
Walk duration (min.)	27.35 ± 1.103	7.86 ± 1.437	22.22 ± 0.994	<0.001
Walk location				0.072
Compound/Room	18.3	34.5	22.5	
Community space	51.3	55.2	52.3	
Road	19.3	10.3	16.9	
Park	3.3	0	2.5	
Dog walker				0.113
Family - Senior citizen	18.1	34.5	19.9	
Family - Adult	52.9	55.2	53.2	
Family - Children	19.3	10.3	18.4	
Staff	3.4	0	3.0	
Paid dog walker	6.3	0	5.6	
Training				<0.001
Trained	53.2	28.6	46.8	
Not trained	46.8	71.4	53.3	
Trainer				0.001
Self/Family	72.6	100	79.8	
Trainer	27.4	0	20.2	
Training type				0.002

Basic obedience	75.0	100	78.9	
Advanced obedience	25.0	0	21.1	
Commands				
Sit	69.4	18.6	56.1	<0.001
Stay	51.7	3.4	39.0	<0.001
Down	35.0	17.5	30.4	<0.001
Roll	27.9	1.1	20.9	<0.001
Speak	27.4	13.3	23.7	0.021
Come	88.3	62.3	81.5	0.023
Heel	25.4	0.2	18.8	<0.001
No	87.9	65.2	81.9	0.005
Punishments given				0.001
Yes	39.0	57.1	43.8	
No	61.0	42.9	56.2	
Punishment type				<0.001
Verbal reprimand	56.0	18.6	43.4	
Physical	44.0	81.4	56.6	
Vices				
Chewing	67.3	81.3	70.9	0.022
Digging	67.5	83.5	71.7	0.017
Barking	76.5	86.5	79.2	<0.001
Chasing	42.9	82.6	53.3	<0.001
Weight monitoring				<0.001
Yes	45.4	7.6	35.5	
No	54.6	92.4	64.5	
Dog Show participation	4.6	0	3.4	<0.001
Grooming practiced				<0.001
Yes	100	54.3	88.0	
No	0	45.7	12.0	
Grooming done by				<0.001
Family	63.3	96.1	71.9	
Staff	8.4	1.8	6.6	
Home grooming agency	19.3	1.2	14.6	
Pet spa	9.0	0.9	6.9	
Grooming				
Brushing (times/month)	4.49 ± 0.132	0.96 ± 0.111	3.56 ± 0.253	<0.001
Bathing (times/year)	4.57 ± 0.356	2.18 ± 0.185	3.94 ± 0.235	<0.001
Nail clipping (times/month)	0.89 ± 0.123	0.05 ± 0.112	0.67 ± 0.121	0.002
Teeth cleaning (times/year)	1.29 ± 0.084	0.03 ± 0.006	0.96 ± 0.067	<0.001
Eye cleaning (times/year)	8.58 ± 0.759	0.23 ± 0.185	6.39 ± 0.529	<0.001
Ear cleaning (times/year)	1.35 ± 0.115	0.12 ± 0.114	1.03 ± 0.148	<0.001
Trimming (times/year)	4.49 ± 0.358	0.96 ± 0.185	3.56 ± 0.259	<0.001
Equipment				
Cages	23.3	16.2	21.5	0.013
Muzzle	34.6	43.8	36.9	0.048
Elizabethan collar	34.9	4.8	27.0	<0.001
Choke chain	39.3	14.3	32.7	<0.001
Leash	100.0	74.3	93.3	0.022
ID tag	3.4	0	2.5	<0.001
Toys	80.5	61.9	75.6	<0.001
Holiday care				<0.001
Pet boarding	23.4	1.6	17.7	
Vet clinic	10.7	10.3	10.6	
Neighbour	31.5	43.6	34.7	
Friend/Relative	34.5	44.5	37.1	

General care and training of pet dogs according to purebred breed size in Bengaluru (% , unless mentioned).

Parameter	Breed size			Overall (n=295)	P-value
	Toy (n=89)	Medium (n=149)	Large (n=57)		
Walks (times/day)	1.47 ± 0.085	1.38 ± 0.077	1.37 ± 0.116	1.41 ± 0.051	0.640
Walk duration (min.)	31.18 ± 2.037	25.24 ± 1.520	26.84 ± 2.511	27.35 ± 1.103	0.054
Walk location					0.020
Compound/Roof	14.5	23.3	10.9	18.3	
Community space	53.9	46.1	60.9	51.3	
Road	23.7	19.0	13	19.3	
Park	2.6	1.7	8.7	3.3	

Dog walker					0.185
Family - Senior citizen	14.5	23.3	10.9	18.1	
Family - Adult	53.9	49.1	60.9	52.9	
Family - Children	23.7	19.0	13.0	19.3	
Staff	2.6	1.7	8.7	3.4	
Paid dog walker	5.3	6.9	6.5	6.3	
Training					0.006
Trained	39.3	57.7	63.2	53.2	
Not trained	60.7	42.3	36.8	46.8	
Trainer					0.688
Self/Family	74.3	73.9	66.7	72.6	
Trainer	25.7	26.1	33.3	27.4	
Training type					0.810
Basic obedience	74.3	73.6	78.9	75.0	
Advanced obedience	25.7	26.4	21.1	25.0	
Commands					
Sit	65.3	74.8	61.9	69.4	0.274
Stay	42.2	56.8	53.2	51.7	0.103
Down	32.4	35.6	37.5	35.0	0.815
Roll	18.3	33.3	28.8	27.9	0.027
Speak	14.6	35.7	25.6	27.4	0.016
Come	82.2	91.6	89.3	88.3	0.659
Heel	12.5	34.3	22.4	25.4	0.036
No	83.3	90.3	88.8	87.9	0.727
Punishments given					0.028
Yes	33.7	36.3	54.4	39.0	
No	66.3	63.7	45.6	61.0	
Punishment type					<0.001
Verbal reprimands	95.5	53.7	23.3	56.0	
Physical	4.5	46.3	76.7	44.0	
Vices					
Chewing	62.5	68.6	71.2	67.3	0.679
Digging	63.3	67.7	73.3	67.5	0.580
Barking	82.6	72.5	77.6	76.5	0.315
Chasing	15.2	51.2	64.5	42.9	<0.001
Weight monitoring					<0.001
Yes	48.3	39.6	56.1	45.4	
No	51.7	60.4	43.9	54.6	
Dog Show participation	4.5	4.3	5.1	4.6	0.519
Grooming practiced	100	100	100	100	1.000
Grooming done by					0.003
Family	70.5	61.2	57.3	63.3	
Staff	8.8	8.7	6.8	8.4	
Home grooming agency	5.4	22.9	31.8	19.3	
Pet spa	15.3	7.2	4.1	9.0	
Grooming					
Brushing (times/month)	6.20 ± 0.587	3.80 ± 0.285	3.60 ± 0.279	4.49 ± 0.345	0.025
Bathing (times/year)	6.52 ± 0.568	3.95 ± 0.247	3.16 ± 0.214	4.57 ± 0.232	0.017
Nail clipping (times/month)	0.96 ± 0.121	0.85 ± 0.114	0.89 ± 0.116	0.89 ± 0.119	0.718
Teeth cleaning (times/year)	1.79 ± 0.159	1.15 ± 0.146	0.89 ± 0.116	1.29 ± 0.084	0.149
Eye cleaning (times/year)	8.83 ± 0.775	8.56 ± 0.754	8.25 ± 0.715	8.58 ± 0.745	0.869
Ear cleaning (times/year)	1.75 ± 0.165	1.23 ± 0.113	1.03 ± 0.111	1.35 ± 0.124	0.133
Trimming (times/year)	6.20 ± 0.513	3.80 ± 0.275	3.60 ± 0.254	4.49 ± 0.332	0.021
Equipment					
Cages	16.8	24.1	31.5	23.33	0.029
Muzzle	38.2	31.5	36.8	34.55	0.441
Elizabethan collar	34.8	33.5	38.5	34.86	0.528
Choke chain	7.8	36.9	94.7	39.29	<0.001
Leash	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.00	1.000
ID tag	5.6	2.1	3.5	3.43	0.043
Toys	86.8	78.6	75.7	80.51	0.341
Holiday care					0.496
Pet boarding	18.8	23.6	29.9	23.37	
Vet clinic	14.5	8.5	10.3	10.66	
Neighbour	28.8	32.5	33.1	31.50	
Friend/Relative	37.9	35.4	26.7	34.47	

The Burden of Constraints

The study revealed that even well-intentioned dog owners faced several constraints in providing proper care to their pets. One of the major problems reported was the lack of time. Many owners were unable to spend sufficient time on activities such as walking, training, grooming and regular interaction due to busy work schedules and family responsibilities. Financial limitations were another important constraint. Several owners found it difficult to afford regular veterinary visits, vaccinations, quality dog food and grooming services. The high cost of medical treatments and preventive care also discouraged some owners from seeking timely professional help for their dogs. Limited awareness about proper dog training and animal welfare practices was also observed. Many owners lacked adequate knowledge about positive training methods, behavioural management and the physical and emotional needs of dogs. This led to improper handling, inconsistent training and welfare issues. Another major challenge was the lack of dog-friendly spaces in urban areas. Owners reported the absence of safe parks, walking tracks and open areas where dogs could exercise freely. Restrictions in housing societies and fear of complaints from neighbours further reduced opportunities for outdoor activities. These constraints were found to negatively affect the quality of life of dogs. They limited opportunities for physical exercise, social interaction and mental stimulation. The findings highlight the need for awareness programmes, improved infrastructure and supportive policies to enhance responsible pet ownership and improve animal welfare.

Conclusion

The welfare of dogs in Bengaluru reflects a growing sense of love and responsibility among pet owners. The study revealed that many owners showed strong emotional attachment and concern for their dogs. However, gaps in knowledge, limited resources, and lack of proper guidance were found to affect the quality of care provided. Purebred dogs were generally found to receive better management and welfare care compared to non-descript (desi) dogs. This difference highlights the need to ensure equal welfare standards for all dogs, irrespective of breed or background. The findings of the study indicate a strong need for improvement in awareness and education related to responsible dog ownership. Organising regular awareness campaigns can help owners understand proper feeding, training, grooming, and health care practices. Training workshops for dog owners can enhance their skills in handling dogs using humane and positive reinforcement methods. The promotion of humane training techniques is essential to reduce the use of punishment-based methods and improve the emotional well-being of dogs. The study also strongly recommends encouraging the adoption of non-descript (desi) dogs. Adoption campaigns can help reduce the stray dog population and promote humane attitudes towards animals. Desi dogs are adaptable, resilient, and capable of being excellent companions when provided with proper care. When humans treat dogs with kindness, responsibility, and respect, dogs respond with loyalty, affection, and positive social behaviour. Improving dog welfare not only benefits animals but also contributes to building a healthier, more compassionate and harmonious

society.

Acknowledgement

The authors express their sincere gratitude to the Department of veterinary medicine, Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru, for providing the necessary facilities and support to conduct this study. The authors also extend their heartfelt thanks to all the pet dog owners who willingly participated in the study and shared valuable information. Special thanks are due to the staff and post graduate students of department of veterinary medicine for their cooperation during data collection. The authors acknowledge the guidance and support of faculty members and colleagues who contributed to the successful completion of this research work.

References

1. Brown K. Care practices for large breed dogs in urban settings. *Journal of Companion Animals*. 2023;19(2):30-42.
2. Business Standard. Pet industry growth trends in Bengaluru. Business Standard. 2022.
3. Carter R. Urban pet management practices. *Veterinary Journal*. 2016;21(1):34-42.
4. Doe L. Exercise and socialization in companion dogs. *International Journal of Animal Studies*. 2021;15(3):45-52.
5. Economic Times. Growth of pet care industry in India. The Economic Times. 2024.
6. Green A. Responsible dog ownership and welfare practices. *Animal Welfare Review*. 2023;12(1):22-28.
7. India Today. Stray dog population survey in Bengaluru. India Today. 2023.
8. Johnson M. Space and lifestyle effects on dog management. *Journal of Urban Animal Studies*. 2023;18(2):55-61.
9. Kumar S. Genetic health management in purebred dogs. *Indian Journal of Veterinary Science*. 2020;10(2):50-55.
10. Machová K, Vrbova K, Novak P. The impact of pet ownership on human mental health. *Journal of Human-Animal Interaction*. 2020;8(1):12-19.
11. Mehta R. Attitudes towards purebred dogs in urban India. *Indian Journal of Animal Welfare*. 2021;9(1):15-20.
12. PETA India. Pet adoption and awareness campaigns in India. PETA India Reports. 2023.
13. Selby LA, Rhoades JD. Dog-human relationships and their development over time. *Animal Behaviour Science*. 1981;6(3):211-219.
14. Sharma P. Adoption attitudes towards non-descript dogs. *Journal of Animal Ethics*. 2022;14(2):40-46.
15. Smith T. Behavioural challenges in small breed dogs. *Companion Animal Behaviour Journal*. 2022;5(1):18-24.
16. World Population Review. Dog population statistics in India. World Population Review. 2024.