



Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors

Annual Review of Cases 2012

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Section 1: Data collection methods

The previous Annual Review of Cases provided by a sample of the APBC membership has been reinstated beginning year 2012 after its last publication in 2005. All Provisional and Full Members of the APBC are invited to submit case logs which can then be used

to provide data for this annual review. These data are collected prospectively or retrospectively in line with the members' needs, via an online database. Data collection for each year closes in the following September, thus data collection for the year 2012 closed in September

2013. The data presented in this summary for 2012 comprises details of cases seen from January 2012 to December 2012 inclusive, as submitted by 57 Members, 23% of the eligible membership, one of which was working abroad (See Table 1).

Membership Type	Number Registered	Number who Contributed	Percentage who Contributed
Full Member	68	24	35
Provisional Member	182	33	18

Table 1: Analysis of APBC members who contributed to the 2012 Annual Review of Cases

Section 2: Cases seen by APBC members

The following section summarises the cases seen by Full and Provisional members of the APBC combined, by species, neuter status, sex and breed. Unless otherwise stated, all information in this report refers to cases seen by full and provisional members (hereafter referred to as “APBC members”) combined.

A total of 180 cat and 1893 dog cases were submitted for 2012 by this membership sample.

Table 2 and Figure 1 show that more male than female dogs were seen, but approximately equal numbers of male and female cats. There is little data on how sex impacts on the behavioural problems of dogs. Wright and Nesselrote (1987) reported that, of 105 dogs seen for behaviour problems by veterinarians, 90% were seen for one of three categories, aggression, stimulus reactivity, and separation problems; they found that more intact males and neutered females were seen for aggression and reactivity problems, but there was no difference between the sexes for separation problems. Casey et al (2014) looked at human-directed

aggression in dogs in three situations, unfamiliar people outside and entering their home, and in the company of familiar people, and assessed risk factors for aggression. They found that female neutered dogs had a reduced risk of aggression in all situations.

We can also see that, for dogs seen by APBC members, 68% of male dogs and 73% of female dogs were neutered. Westgarth et al (2008) reported that, of 154 male and 173 female dogs examined for a study assessing dog-human and dog-dog interactions in 260 dog-owning households in Cheshire, just 53% of male and a similar level of 73% of female dogs were neutered. Of course, these figures cannot be directly compared as sampling methods were markedly different, but it is interesting to note the similarity in the percentages of females dogs neutered, and quite a difference in the percentages of male dogs neutered. This could be as a result of bias in data collection (the APBC only see dogs with problem behaviours) or it could represent an increase in the number of male dogs being neutered over time.

Table 2 and Figure 1 also provide information on the neuter status of cats seen by APBC members. 97% of male cats were neutered, and 95% of females. Murray et al (2009) reported that of 1167 cats examined for their study looking at the characteristics of cats in the UK, and factors affecting their neuter status, 91.5% of those over 6 months or age were neutered and sex was not a factor associated with neutering. Interestingly, Murray et al (2009) reported that cats living strictly outdoors were more likely to be entire, and cats that had not been vaccinated in the previous year were seven times more likely to be entire. They suggested a number of reasons for this correlation, including that owners may not have been aware of the benefits of neutering and vaccination, but it was also suggested that owners who didn't want to spend money on vaccinations, were also likely to want to avoid the cost of neutering. It follows that cats seen by APBC members would have high rates on neutering, as owners who invest in the behavioural welfare of their cats are probably more likely to be well-informed on their cat's psychological welfare, and are willing to invest financially in the same.

	Male dogs	Female dogs	Male cats	Female cats
Total	1114	755	90	87
No neutered	762	543	87	83
% Neutered	68	72	97	95

Table 2. Cases seen by APBC members in 2012 categorised by gender and neuter status, where information was provided by members for both categories

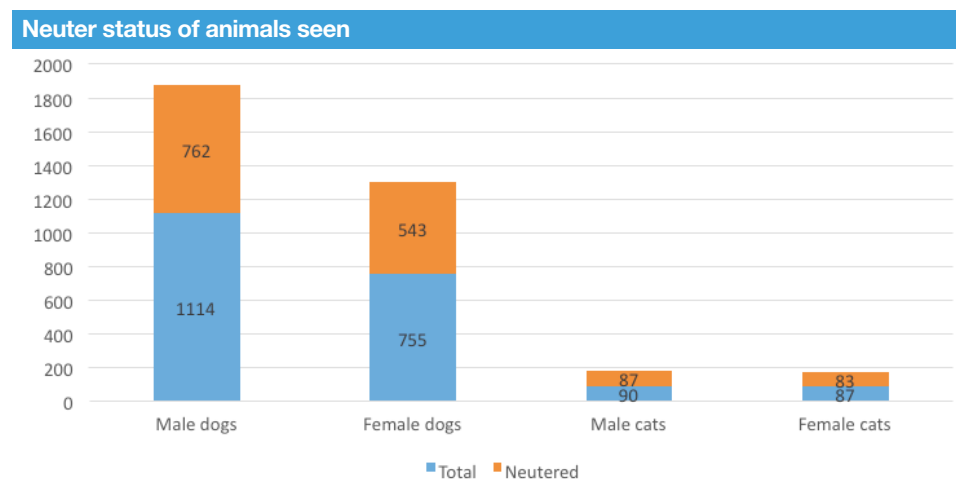


Figure 1. The number of neutered and unneutered cats and dogs seen by APBC members in 2012, where information was provided by members for both categories

The most common breed types seen for dogs and cats are presented in Table 3, with crossbreed and domestic short hair compromising the majority of cases. If we compare the top ten pedigree breeds referred to the APBC (Figure 2) to the top ten pedigree breeds registered with the UK Kennel Club (Figure 3) we can see that the most commonly referred breed, the Border Collie, does not feature on the Kennel Club's list. We can also note that Jack Russell Terriers, West Highland White Terriers and Shih Tzus feature on the APBC top ten, but not the Kennel Club's. Only a subset of the Jack Russells called a Parson Jack Russell are officially recognised by the UK Kennel Club, so this may explain this finding. The fact that other breeds are often referred to the APBC for problem behaviour but are not as commonly registered with the Kennel Club could be explained in a number of ways, including: these breeds have significantly more problem behaviours than more popular breeds; or the Kennel Club does not have a record of every dog in the UK, so their figures are not necessarily representative of the popularity of a breed in the UK. The majority of dog breeds seen by APBC members did, however, feature on the Kennel Club's list. It is of course logical that commonly owned breeds, for example Labradors, are more likely to be seen by APBC members than less commonly owned breeds.

It was not possible to acquire figures to compare the top nine breeds of cat referred to the APBC to the most popular breeds in the UK today.

Cat	Dog
1. Domestic Shorthair (n=108, %=65)	1. Crossbreeds (n=477, %=25)
2. Bengal (n=18, %=10)	2. Border Collie (n=136, %=7)
3. Burmese (n=12, %=6.5)	3. German Shepherd Dog (n=134, %=7)
4. Ragdoll (n=7, %=4)	4. Labrador Retriever (n=120, %=6)
5. British Shorthair (n=6, %=3.5)	5. Cocker Spaniel (n=99, %=5)
6. Siamese (n=4, %=2)	6. Jack Russell Terrier (n=85, %=4.5)
7. Birman (n=2, %=1), Norwegian Forest Cat (n=2, %=1), Ocicat (n=2, %=1)	7. Staffordshire Bull Terrier (n=46, %=2.5)
	8. Border Terrier (n=42, %=2)
	9. West Highland White Terrier (n=35, %=2)
	10. Golden Retriever (n=32, %=2)

Table 3. Breeds of cat and dog most commonly referred to APBC members in 2012. Included: total number of that breed seen; % of the total for the species

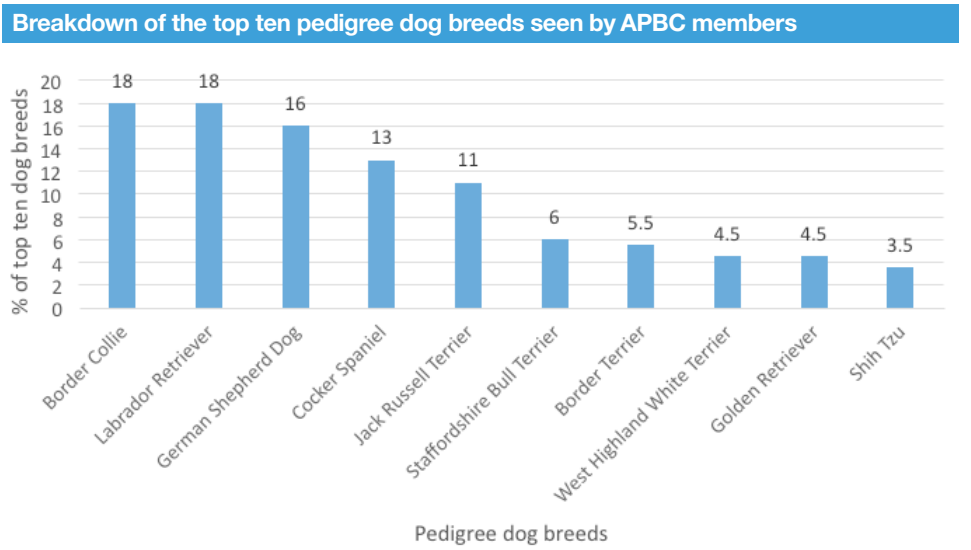


Figure 2: The top ten pedigree dog breeds seen by APBC members in 2012

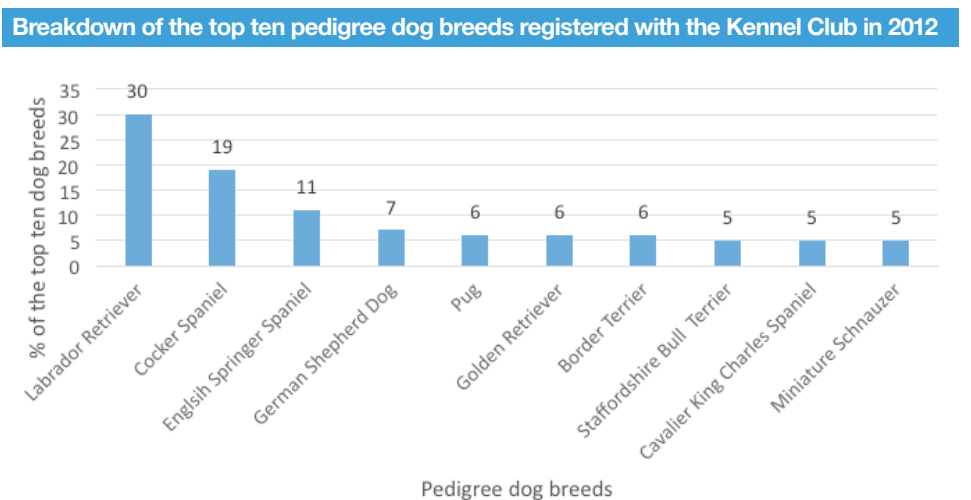


Figure 3: The top ten pedigree dog breeds registered with the Kennel Club in 2012 (The Kennel Club, 2014)

Section 3: Behaviour problems seen by APBC members

The following section summarises the behaviour problems seen in dogs and cats by APBC full and provisional members. Behaviour counsellors are often asked to treat multiple behaviour problems displayed by one pet, as behavioural symptoms are often related to underlying causes. On average 1.5 behaviour problems were reported for cats and 1.8 for dogs.

Figure 4 presents the proportion of each problem type in the primary problem reported for each dog (i.e. the main problem behaviour counsellors were contacted about); 65% of canine primary problem behaviours involved aggression. Aggression was most often seen directed towards unknown dogs (22%), however, aggression towards people, known, unknown, and animal professionals (vets and groomers) made up 36% of the total primary behaviour problems reported whereas aggression towards dogs, known and unknown, made up only 29% of the total primary

behaviour problems reported. Anxiety-related problems (fears, phobias and owner-absent problems) made up 14% of the primary behaviour problems seen by APBC members, although it is worth noting that pet behaviour counsellors recognise that many aggression-related problems also have a fear element. That only 6% of dogs were referred to the APBC for owner-absent problems is interesting. Work carried out by Bradshaw et al (2002) suggested that the majority of dogs they observed for their study showed potentially undesirable behaviours when separated from their owners. The study also found that only 6 of 75 owners who had dogs showing problematic behaviour when separated from their owner had sought help. It could be therefore, that this is a behaviour which is common, but not necessarily reported to veterinary surgeons and pet behaviour counsellors. The category “other” most often included dogs referred for car-chasing, coprophagia and apparent territorial behaviour.

Primary behaviour problems presented by cats are displayed in Figure 5; 45% of feline primary problem behaviours (i.e. the main problem behaviour counsellors were contacted regarding) involved urination (spraying) on a vertical surface (23%) and urination or defecation on a horizontal surface (22%). 35% of cats presented with aggression problems, most often towards other cats (26%) with the majority of that aggression (25%) being directed towards unknown cats. 9% of cats seen had aggression towards people as their primary problem behaviour. The category “other” included cats seen for normal behaviour, sometimes out of context. For example: normal behaviours reported included predation and roaming; normal, out of context behaviours included scratching furniture and predatory behaviour directed towards people and dogs. Self-mutilation and vocalising at night also featured in the “other” category.

Analysis of canine behaviour problems

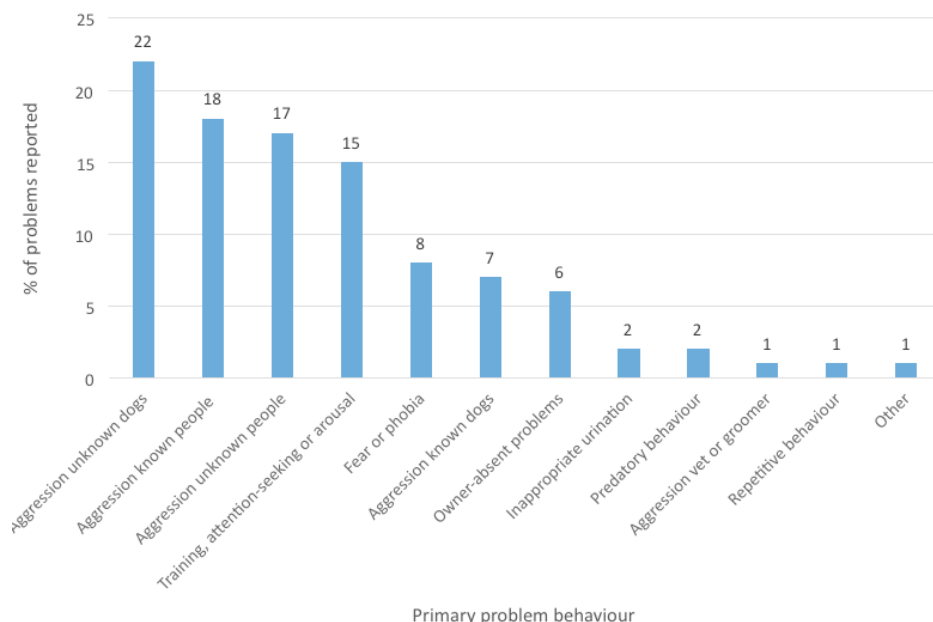


Figure 4. A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours dogs were referred to APBC members for in 2012

In summary, dogs are most commonly referred to the APBC for aggression problems, cats for issues with inappropriate urination and defecation. It is important to note that these problems are what impacts most on the owner, not necessarily the problem posing the largest welfare threat to the animal. Research has suggested that the majority of dogs suffer from separation anxiety (Bradshaw et al, 2002), yet only 6% of dog cases seen by APBC members have that as the primary problem behaviour.

Analysis of feline behaviour problems

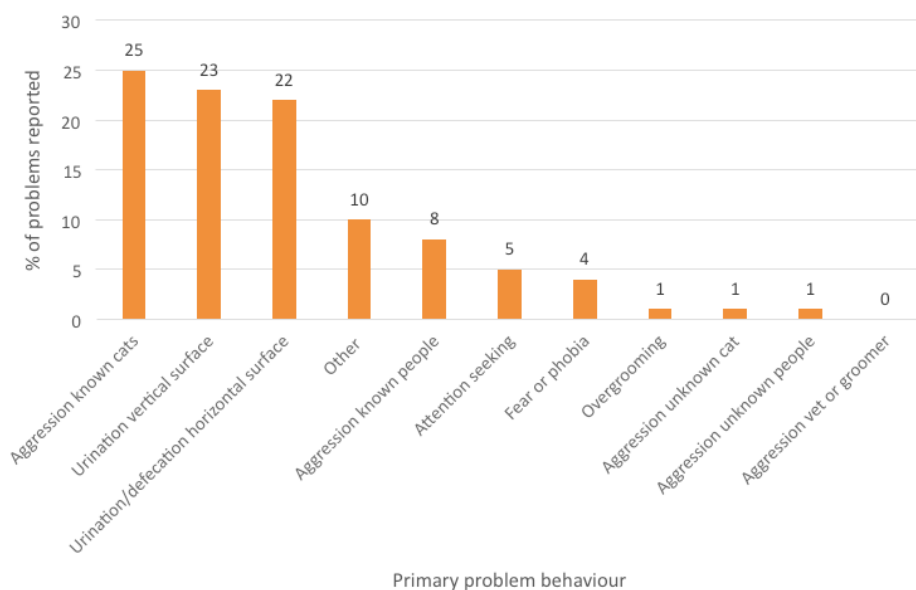


Figure 5. A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours cats were referred to APBC members for in 2012

Section 4: The most commonly referred dog breeds and their most commonly reported behaviour problems

This following section provides a detailed breakdown of the primary problem behaviours seen in the ten most commonly referred breeds of dog. This data should not be used to interpret risk factors associated with individual breeds developing specific behaviour problems, as certain breeds may also be more likely to be referred for treatment of a specific behavioural problem. However, variation between breeds in commonly referred behaviour problems is interesting and useful.

Cross breeds and mongrels (n=477) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression issues, to both unknown dogs and unknown people (Figure 6). Border Collies (n=136) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression to people, both known and unknown (Figure 7). Labrador retrievers (n=134; Figure 8), German Shepherds (n=120; Figure 9), Staffordshire Bull terriers (n=46; Figure 10) and Border Terriers (n=42; Figure 11) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression issues towards unknown dogs. Cocker spaniels (n=99; Figure 12), Jack Russell Terriers (n=85; Figure 13) and West Highland White terriers (n=35; Figure 14) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression to known people. Golden Retrievers (n=32) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression to known people and unknown dogs (Figure 15).

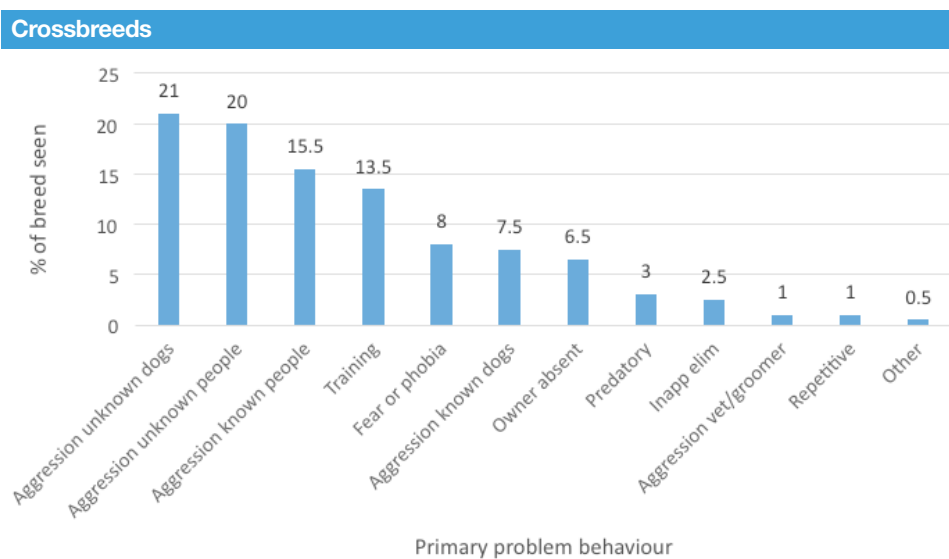


Figure 6: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Crossbreeds seen by APBC members in 2012

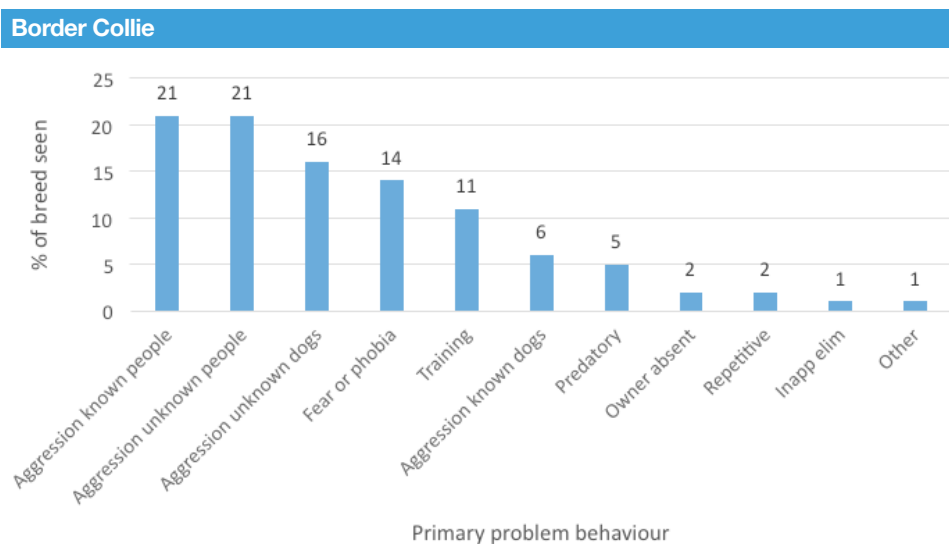


Figure 7: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Border Collies seen by APBC members in 2012

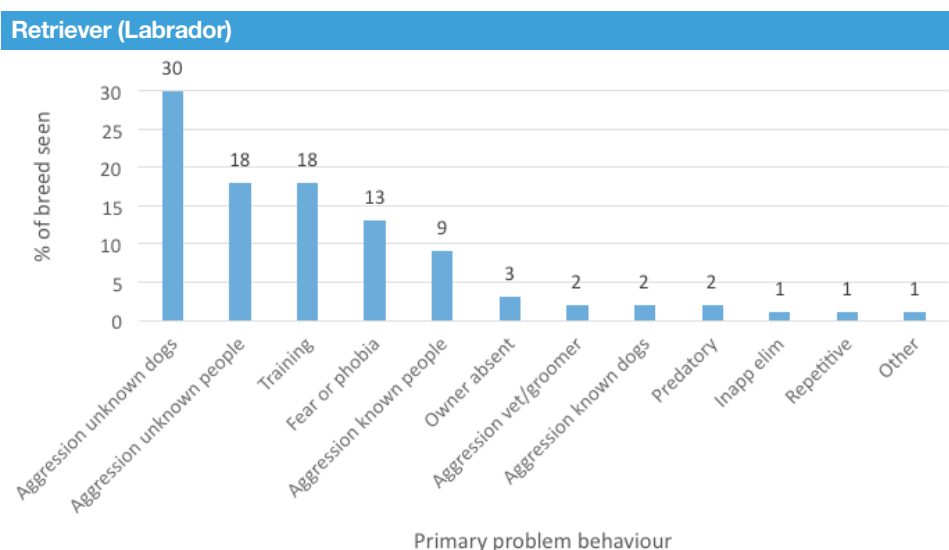


Figure 8: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Labrador Retrievers seen by APBC members in 2012

German Shepherd Dog

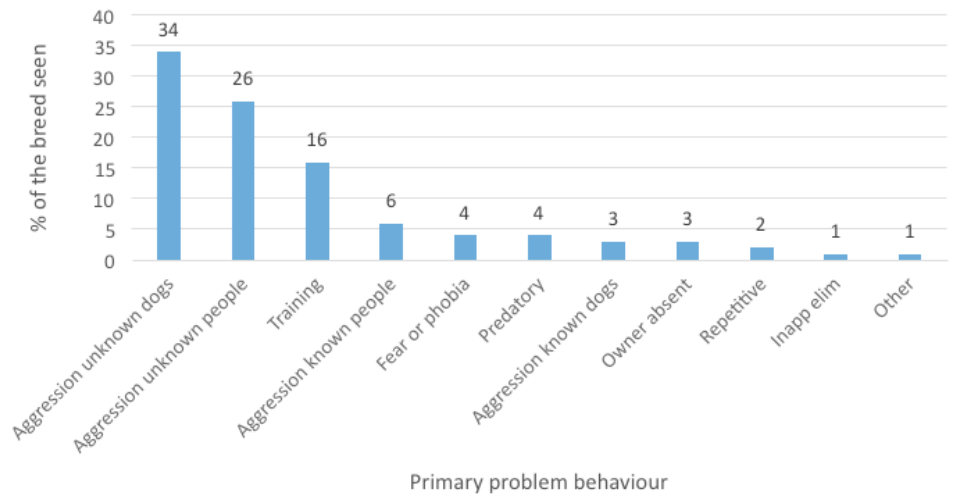


Figure 9: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of German Shepherd Dogs seen by APBC members in 2012

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

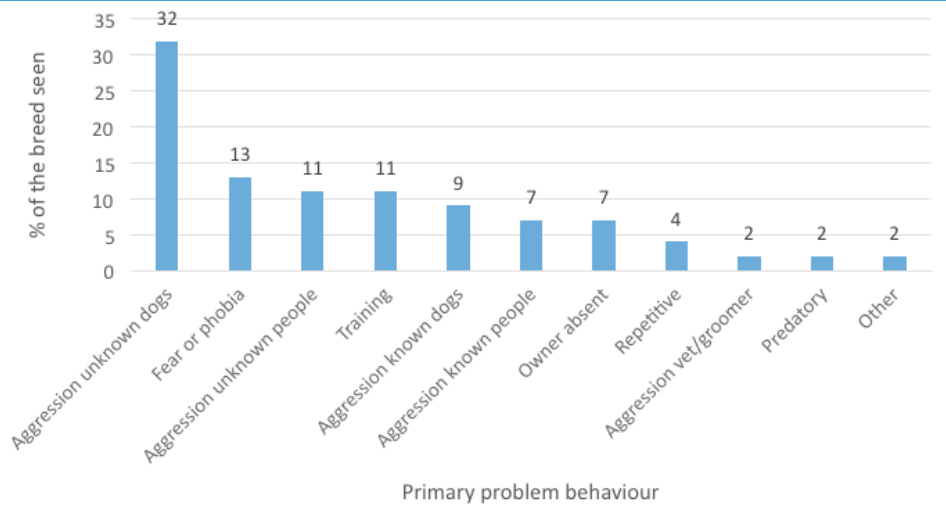


Figure 10: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Staffordshire Bull Terriers seen by APBC members in 2012

Border Terrier

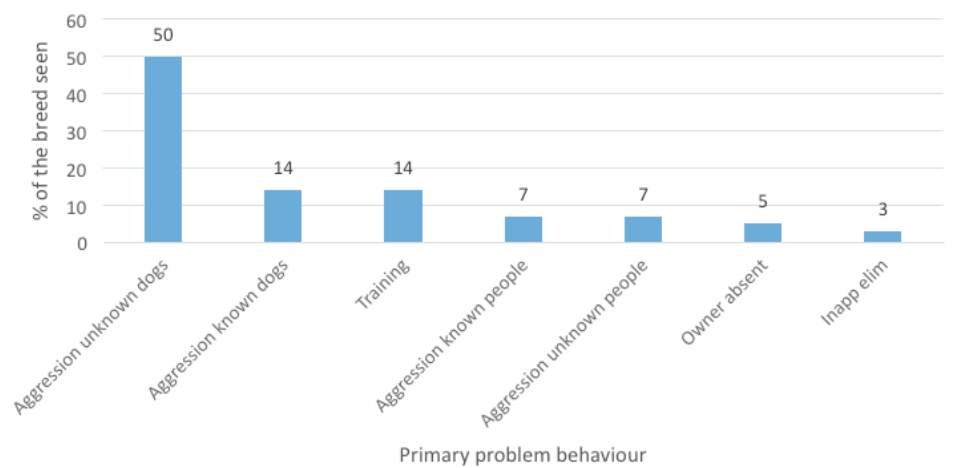


Figure 11: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Border Terriers seen by APBC members in 2012

Spaniel (Cocker)

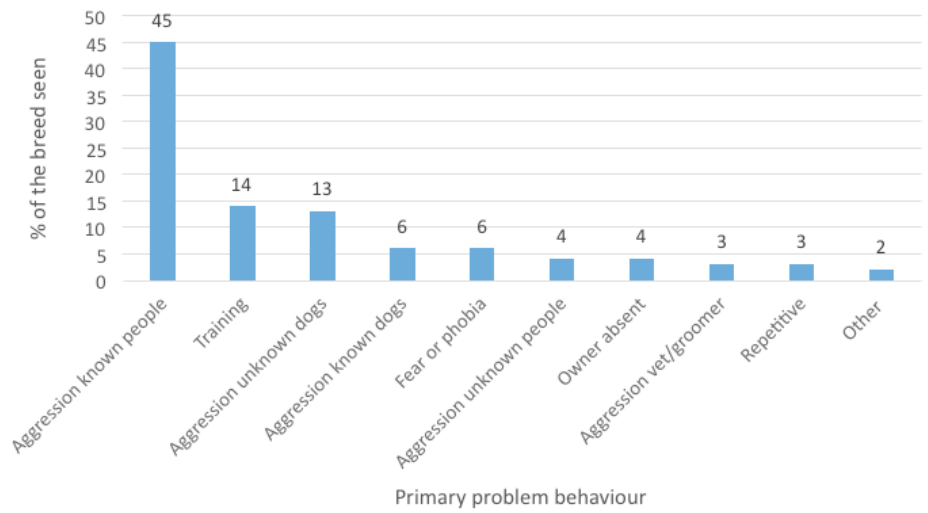


Figure 12: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Cocker Spaniels seen by APBC members in 2012

Jack Russell Terrier

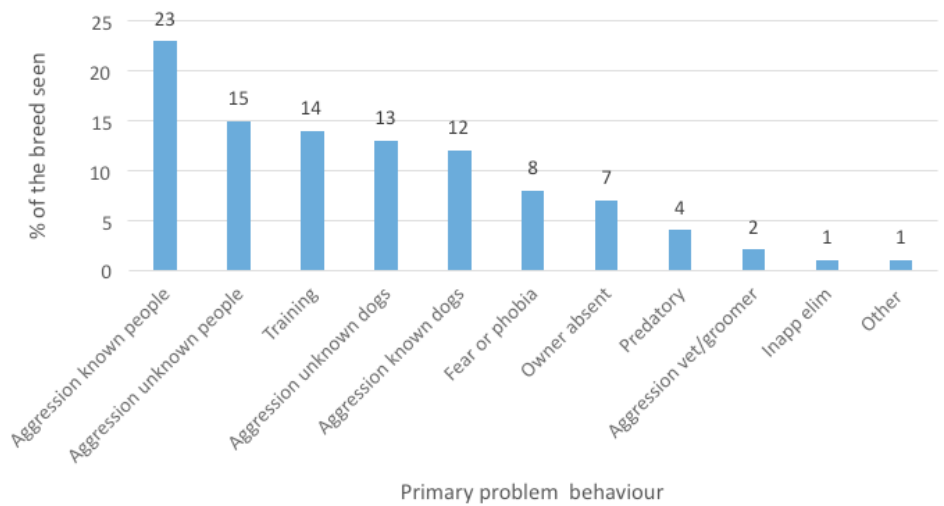


Figure 13: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Jack Russell Terriers seen by APBC members in 2012

West Highland White Terrier

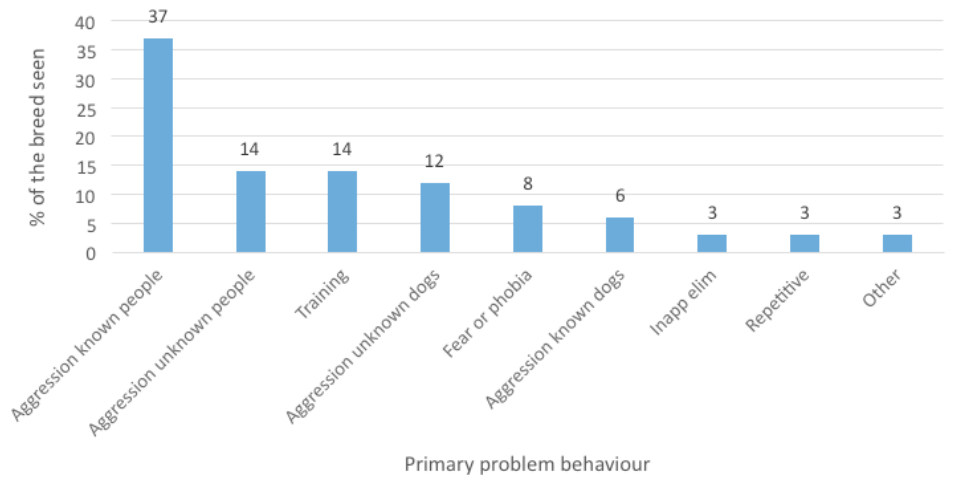


Figure 14: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of West Highland White Terriers seen by APBC members in 2012

Retriever (Golden)

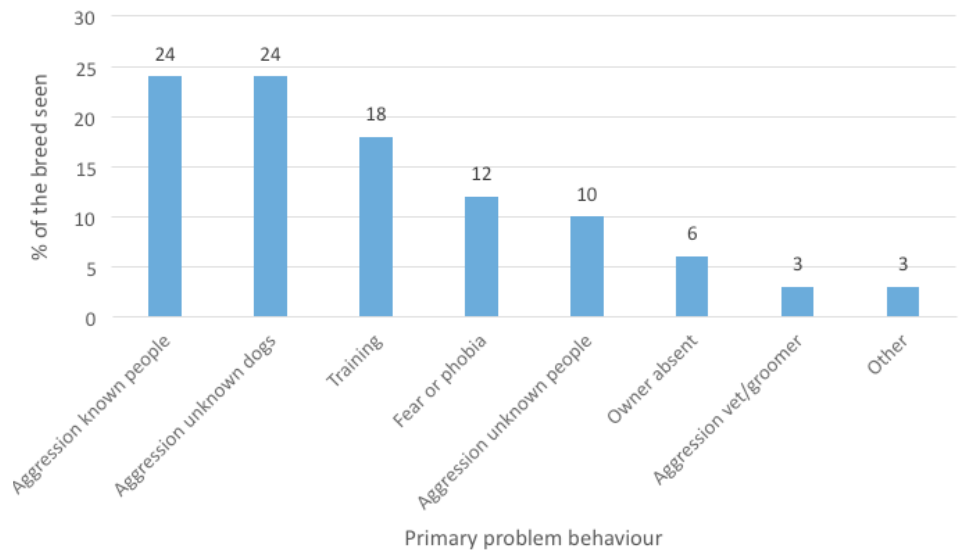


Figure 15: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Golden Retrievers seen by APBC members in 2012

Section 5: The most commonly referred cat breeds and their most commonly reported behaviour problems

This following section provides a detailed breakdown of the primary behaviour problems seen in the most commonly referred breeds of cat for which more than 2 cases were seen. Again these data do not necessarily represent the risk factors associated with individual breeds, but rather a summary of what APBC members were primarily asked for advice on.

Domestic Shorthair cats (n=108) were most commonly referred to APBC members for aggression towards known cats (Figure 16). Bengal (n=18; Figure 17) and Burmese (n=12; Figure 18) were most commonly referred for urination on a vertical surface (spraying) or urination/defecation on a horizontal surface (litter tray refusal). Ragdoll (n=7; Figure 19) were most commonly referred for urination/defecation on a horizontal surface, British Shorthair (n=6; Figure 20) for aggression to known cats or urination/defecation on horizontal surfaces, and Siamese (n=4; Figure 21) for fears and phobias.

Domestic Shorthair

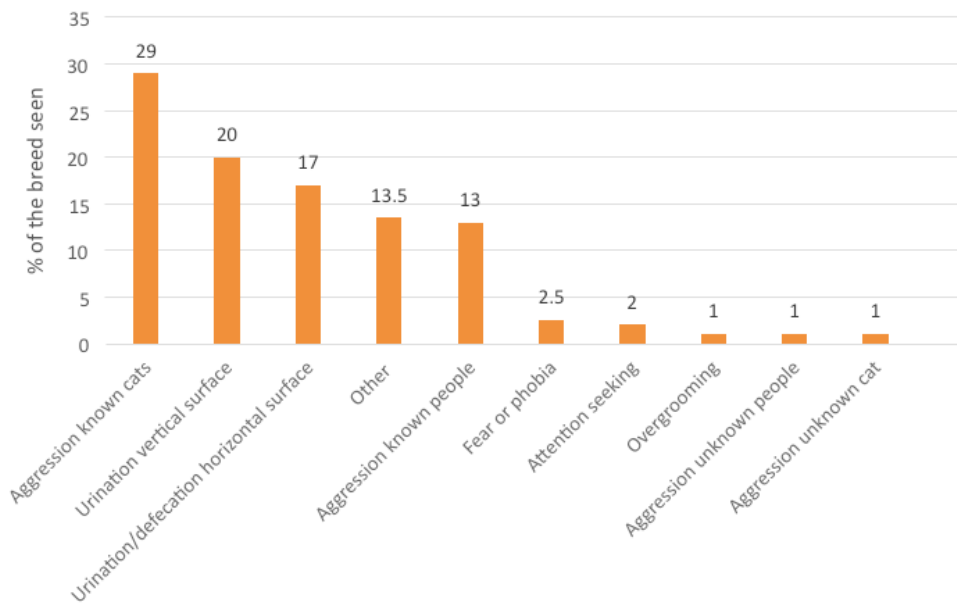


Figure 16: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Domestic Shorthair cats seen by APBC members in 2012.

Bengal

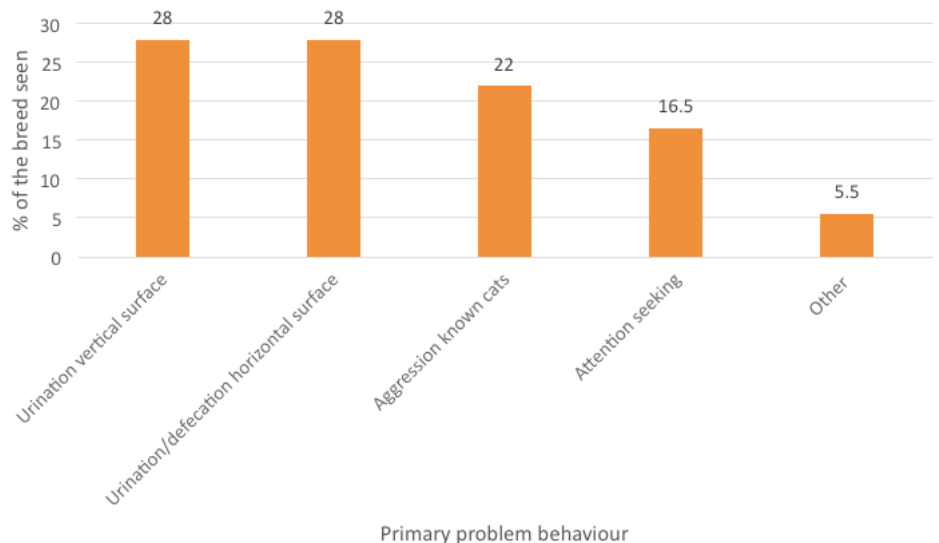


Figure 17: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Bengal cats seen by APBC members in 2012

Burmese

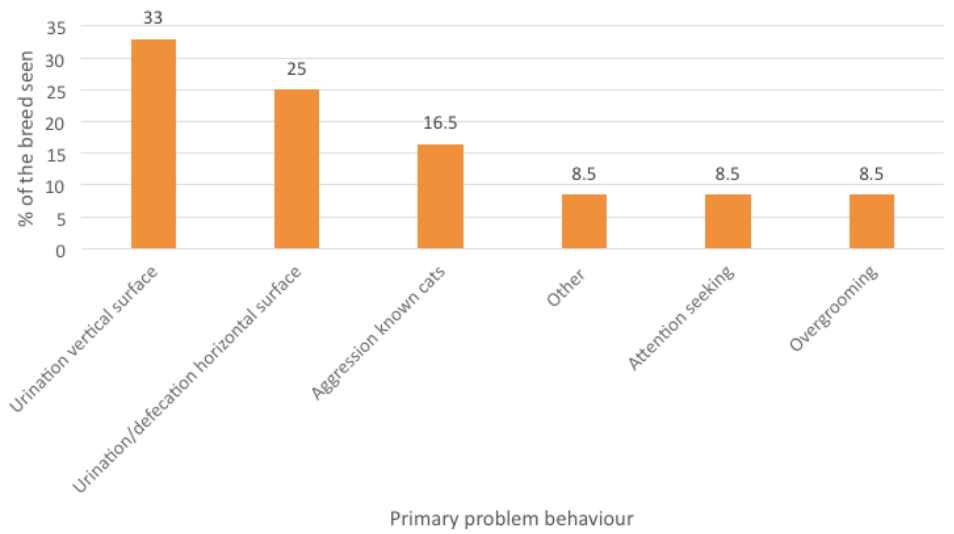


Figure 18: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Burmese cats seen by APBC members in 2012

Ragdoll

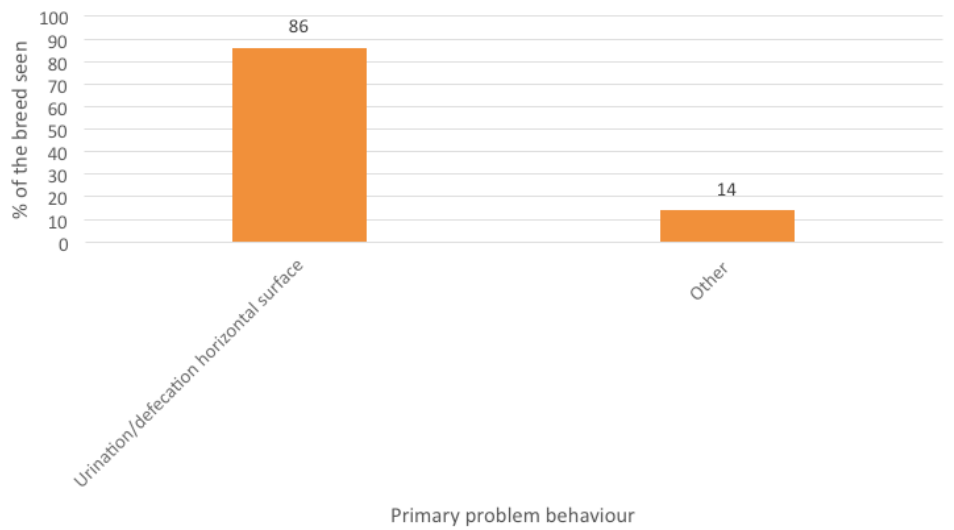


Figure 19: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Ragdoll cats seen by APBC members in 2012

British Shorthair

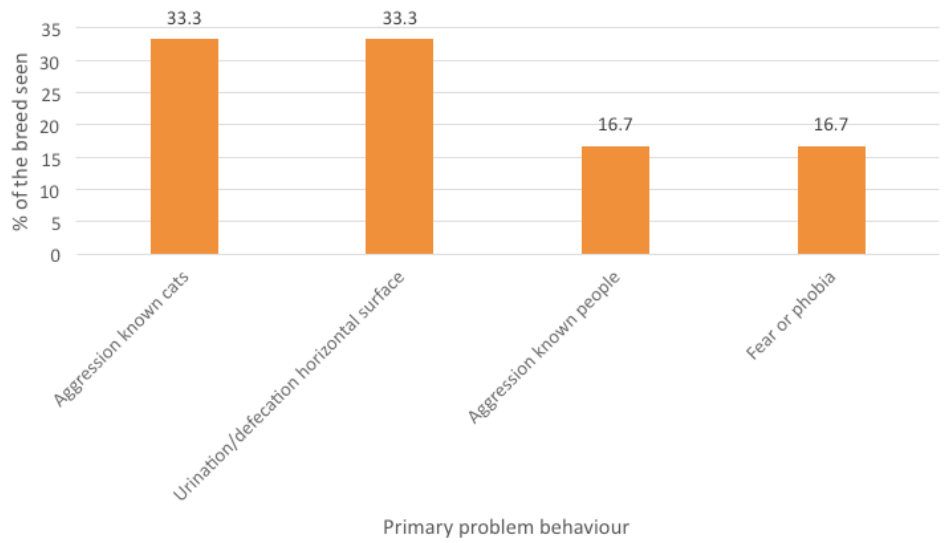


Figure 20: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of British Shorthair cats seen by APBC members in 2012

Siamese

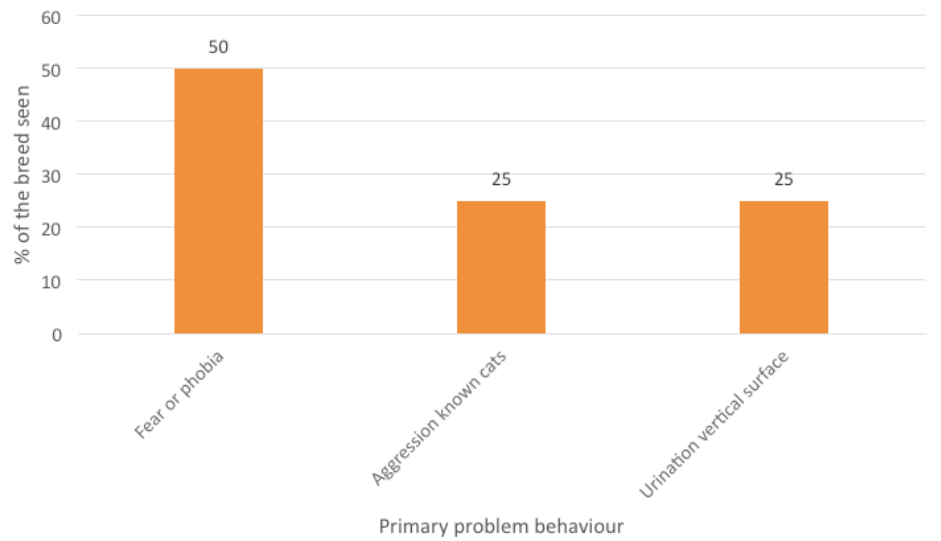


Figure 21: A breakdown of the primary problem behaviours of Siamese cats seen by APBC members in 2012

Section 6: Member activity

Table 4 provides information on our members' activities including contribution to this report, species seen by different categories of member, and the average caseloads of different categories of member. Testing for skew in the data revealed it was not normally distributed, so median scores have been provided instead of means. If scaled to the full membership this provides estimates of 789 cats and 8302 dogs treated in the year 2012 by APBC members.

Membership Type	Dogs			Cats		
	Number	Median	Range	Number	Median	Range
Full Member	1343	43	3-176	125	4	0-18
Provisional Member	542	7	0-120	55	0	0-19

Table 4: Analysis of the species seen by Full and Provisional members who submitted 2012 data.

Section 7: References

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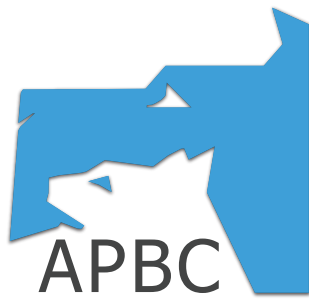
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Notes

Notes



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