



HAL
open science

Evolution of puppy behavior around the adoption period: study on a cohort of 62 Golden Retriever puppies

Ilyas Bendahmane, Oceane Richard, Lucy Montagnier, Kenza Kezimana, Annabelle Meynadier, Hanna Mila

► To cite this version:

Ilyas Bendahmane, Oceane Richard, Lucy Montagnier, Kenza Kezimana, Annabelle Meynadier, et al.. Evolution of puppy behavior around the adoption period: study on a cohort of 62 Golden Retriever puppies. European Conference on Behavioural Biology (ECBB), Jul 2024, Zurich, Switzerland. hal-04876456

HAL Id: hal-04876456

<https://hal.science/hal-04876456v1>

Submitted on 9 Jan 2025

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

I. BENDAHMANE^{1,2}, O. RICHARD¹, L. MONTAGNIER¹, K. KEZIMANA¹, A. MEYNADIER², H. MILA¹

¹NeoCare, ENVT, Université de Toulouse, France - ²GenPhySE, Université de Toulouse, INRAE, ENVT, F-31326, Castanet Tolosan, France.

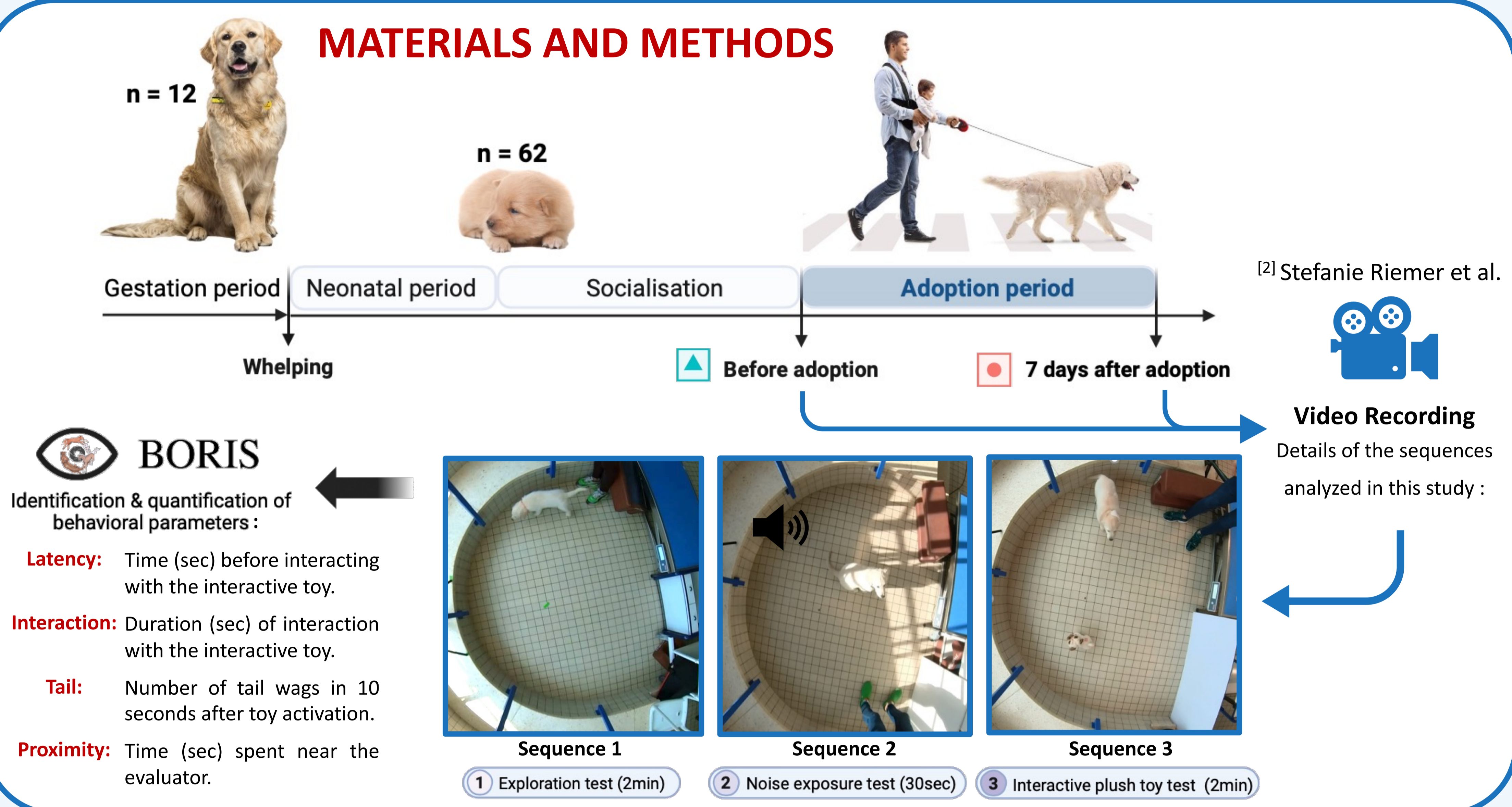
CONTEXT

- Weaning is a challenging for puppies due to separation with their mothers, deprivation of maternal milk, and change in environment.
- This period, with risk of emotional distress [1] could affect the behavior and personality of puppies.

AIM

To characterize the evolution of puppies' behavior before and after adoption.

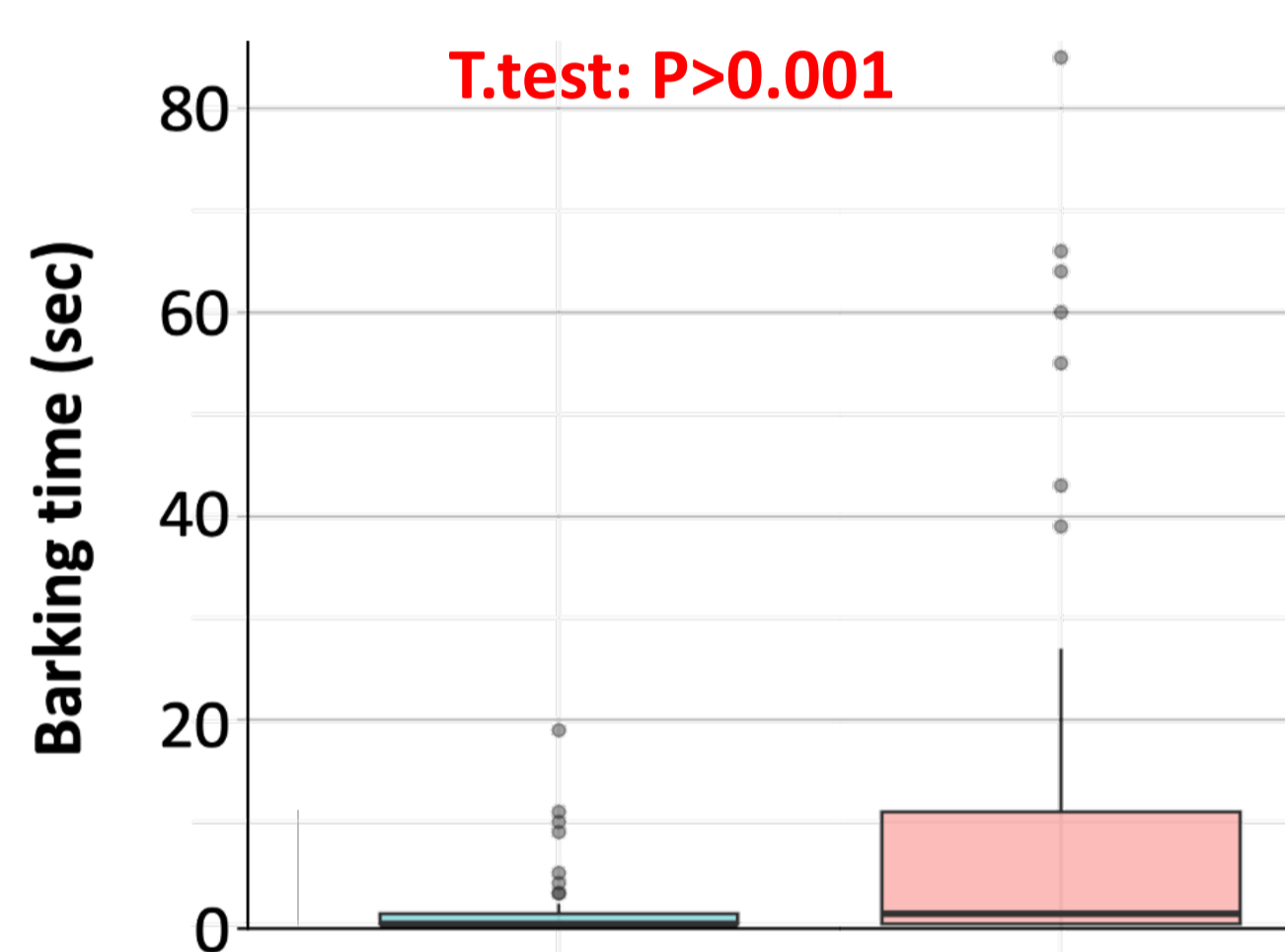
MATERIALS AND METHODS



RESULTS

Behavioral profile has changed dramatically one week after adoption.

Fig 3: Total barking time during the 3 behavioral sequences.



At 7 days post adoption two behavioral profiles are distinguished: the first, characterized by a high time of barking (Fig3), growling and a time of lying down during the 3rd sequence.

The second is distinguished by a high time of movements (Fig4) and interaction with the interactive push toy.

Fig 4: Movement time during the exploration test (sequence 1)

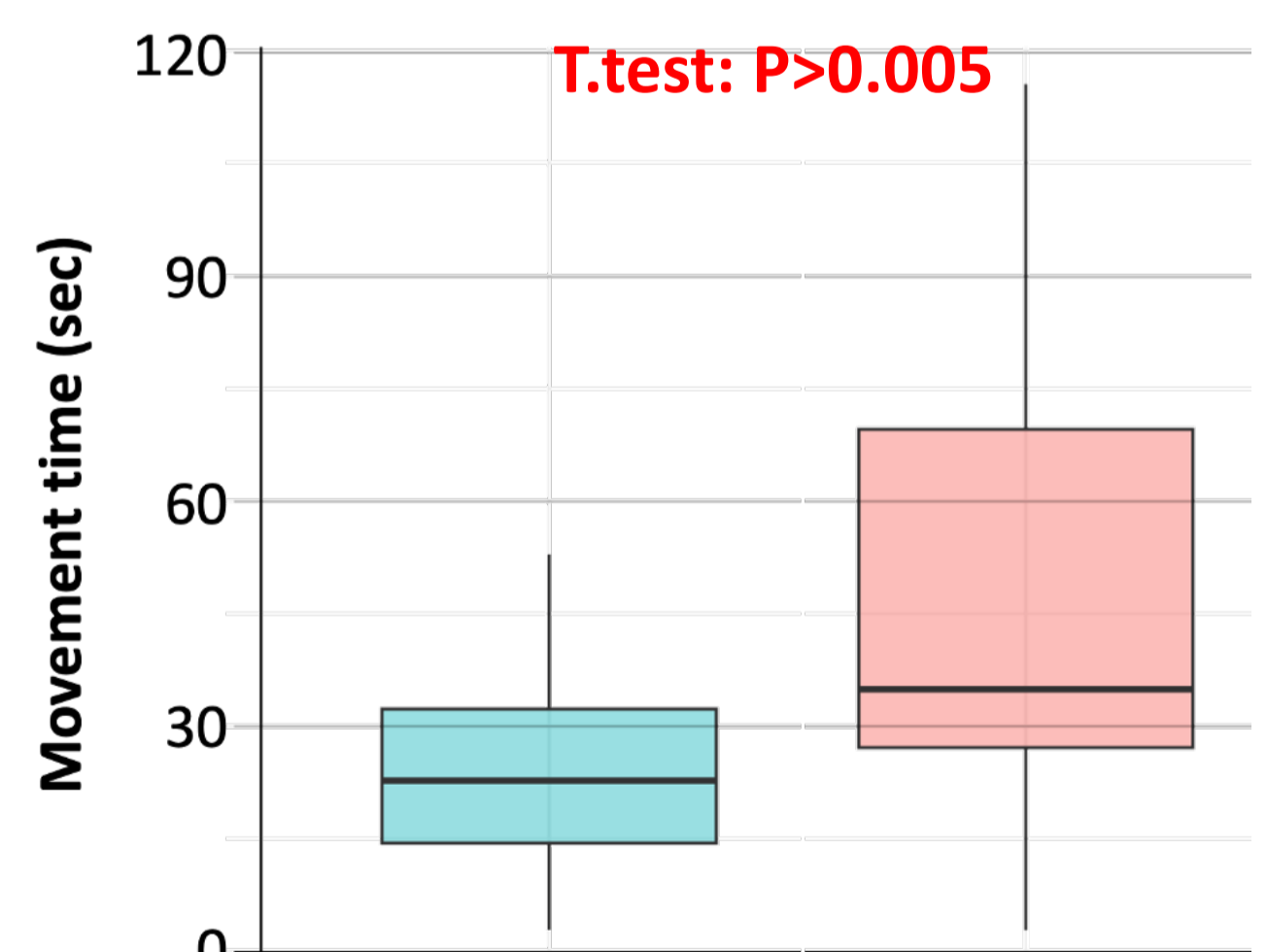


Fig 1 : PCA Biplot graph representing puppies behavior according to 16 out of 42 evaluated variables.

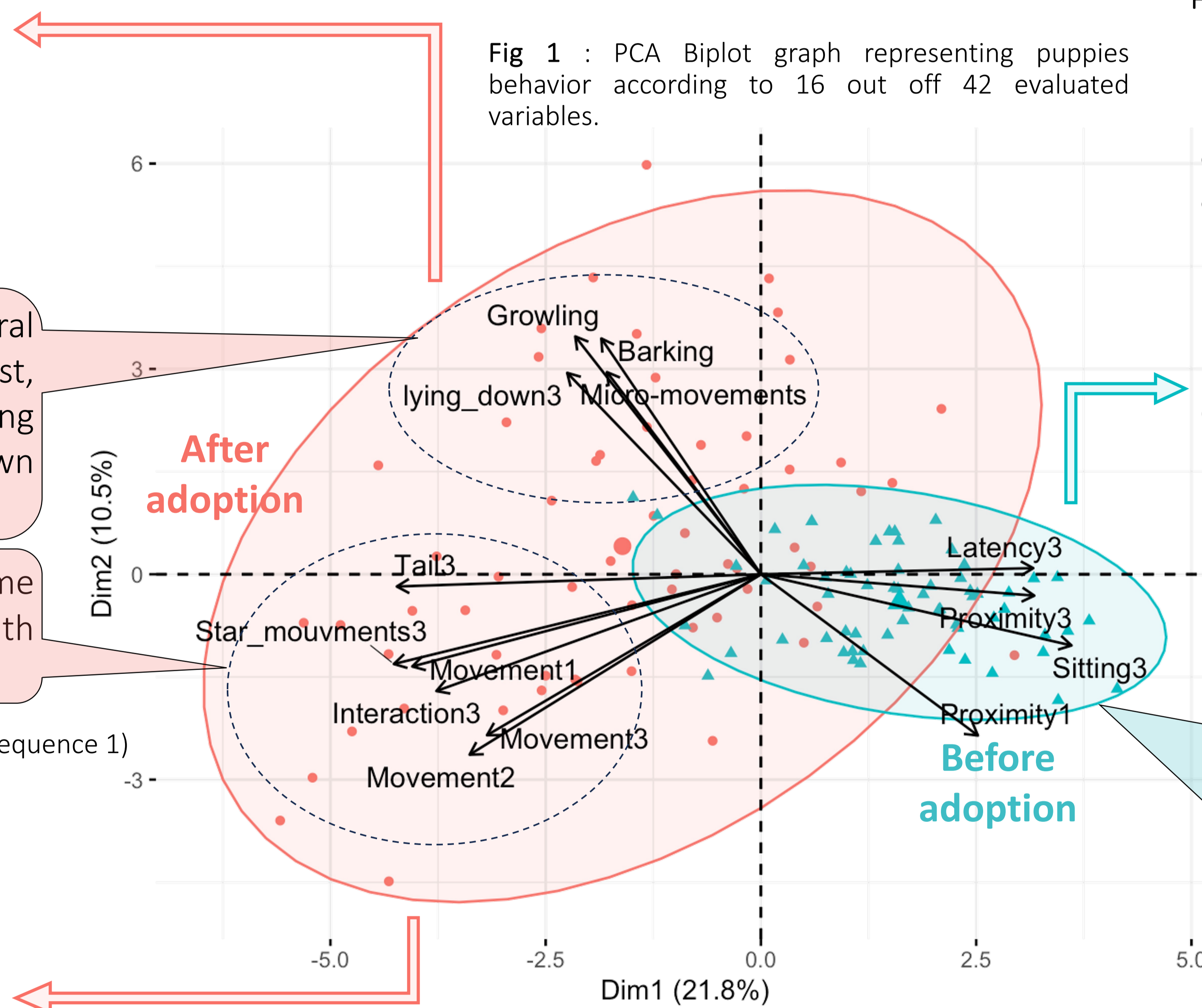
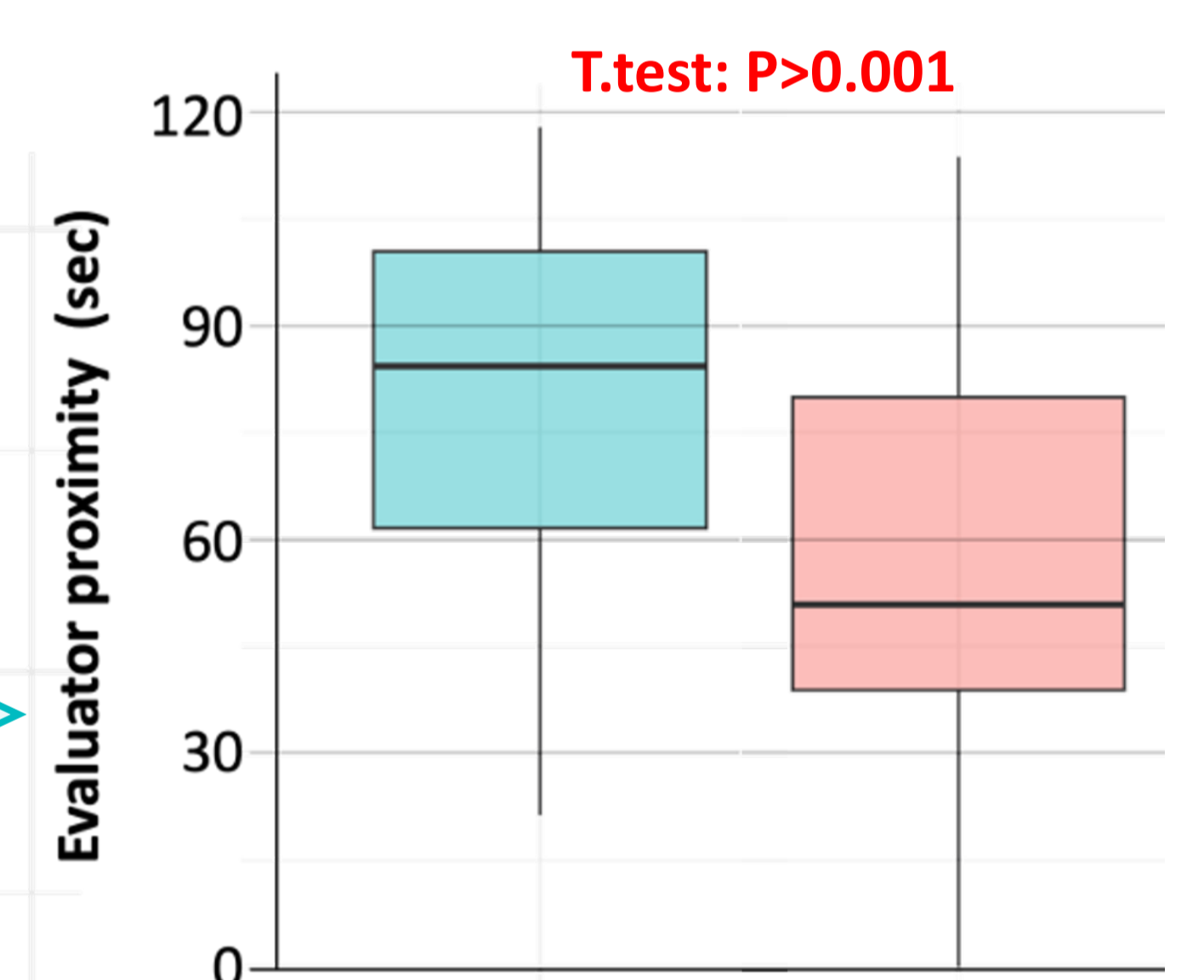


Fig 2: Time spent next to the evaluator during the exploration test (sequence 1)



The puppies' pre-adoption behavior is characterized by increased sitting time during Sequence 3, increased proximity time with the evaluator (Fig2), and increased latency time before interacting with toys.

DISCUSSION

- During the adoption process, puppies undergo notable behavioral changes noticeable as soon as one week after adoption (Fig1).
- Before adoption, puppies seem to be wary towards the new environment. Around 7 days post-weaning, distinct behavioral profiles emerge: some puppies become bold and curious, while others remain inactive with an increase of their vocal expressions.
- Combining behavioral profiles with cortisol concentrations in puppy hair could allow the identify puppies with high stress level.

Corresponding author

Ilyas Bendahmane
3rd year Ph.D student
Ilyas.bendahmane@envt.fr

[1] The development of emotional distress reactions to separation in puppies. J. of geneticpsychology 1961. O. Elliot et al
[2] Choice of conflict resolution strategy is linked to sociability in dog puppies. Appl Anim Behav Sci. 2013. Stefanie Riemer et al.