Do wild and domesticated chicks

play differently?

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## Introduction

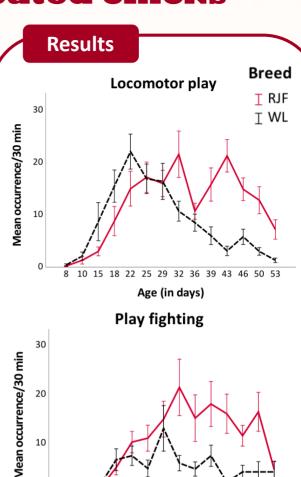
Domestication tends to increase playfulness, making play behaviour a key trait for studies on domestication effects. Since play behaviour has not been studied much in chickens, knowledge of the phenotype is lacking. The aim of this experiment was to assess if and how domestication has influenced play behaviour in chickens.

## **Methods**

Domesticated White Leghorns (WL) and wild Red Junglefowls (RJF) were incubated, housed and tested under the same conditions. The chicks were put in test arenas, video recorded for 30 min and the videos were then analysed. The occurrence of different play behaviours was recorded and compared.



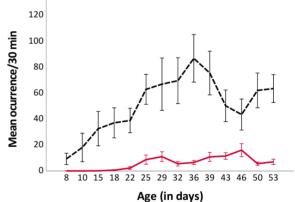
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Age (in days)

Object play

10 15 18 22 25 29 32 36 39 43 46 50 53



All play behaviours combined

