

Do wild and domesticated chicks play differently?

By: Rebecca Oscarsson

Supervisors: Per Jensen & Johanna Gjøen

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.



Conclusion

Domestication influenced play behaviour in chickens. How, and to what degree, varies between different play behaviours.

Results

