



# EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM AUDIOBOOK EXPOSURE ON THE BEHAVIOR OF SHELTER DOGS



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## BACKGROUND

Shelter dogs experience stressors that can induce **negative behavioral changes**. Excessive movement and barking may decrease a dog's chance of getting adopted

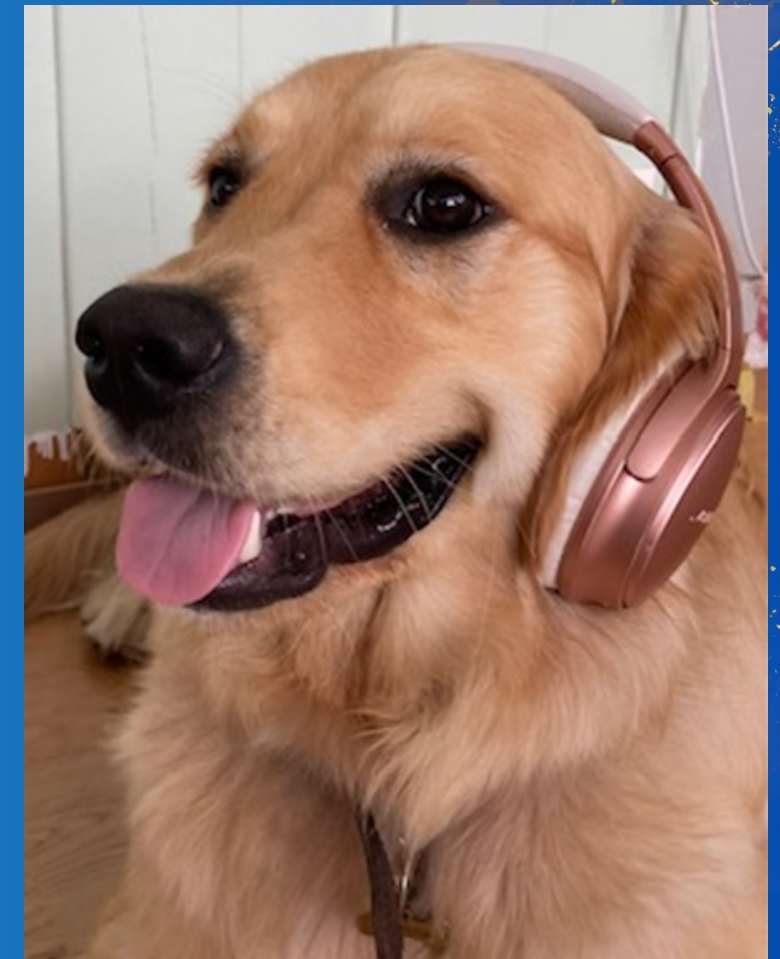
**Auditory enrichment** (i.e., classical music/audiobooks) has been used as a method to decrease vocalization and increase resting behavior among dogs, ultimately improving their welfare

## AIM

To investigate the effects of long-term audiobook exposure on the behavior of shelter dogs

## METHOD

During the study, the **treatment group (n=14)** listened to an audiobook that played through two speakers installed in their corridor (for 4 days, 8hrs/day), while the **control group (n=11)** received no auditory enrichment



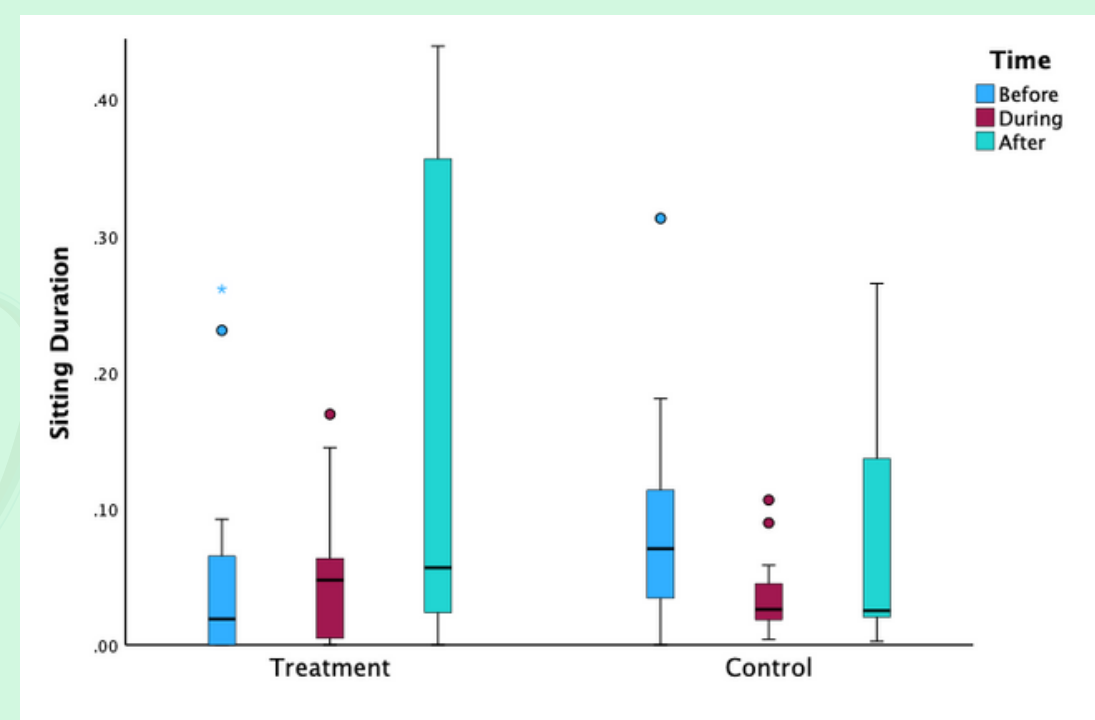
## RESULTS

### TREATMENT GROUP SPENT:

- **More time SITTING** compared to control during treatment
- **Less time WHINING** during treatment
- **More time SITTING** in the days after exposure

### CONTROL AND TREATMENT GROUPS SPENT:

- **Less time MOVING** and **STANDING** during the treatment period
- **More time MOVING** and **STANDING** after the treatment period



## CONCLUSION

The treatment group's increased sitting and reduced whining suggest audiobooks' potential to help dogs acclimate to kennels and reduce anxiety

The increase in activity post-treatment may be due to habituation, but external factors (i.e., construction work) make it difficult to rule out other explanations

Audiobooks are **cost-effective enrichment** and require **minimal resources** to be implemented in shelters

