

Promising behavioural effects of nature sound enrichment in shelter dogs

By Jasmine Heurlin
Supervisor: Lina Roth



Background

The rehoming process is stressful for dogs especially for those living in a shelter environment.

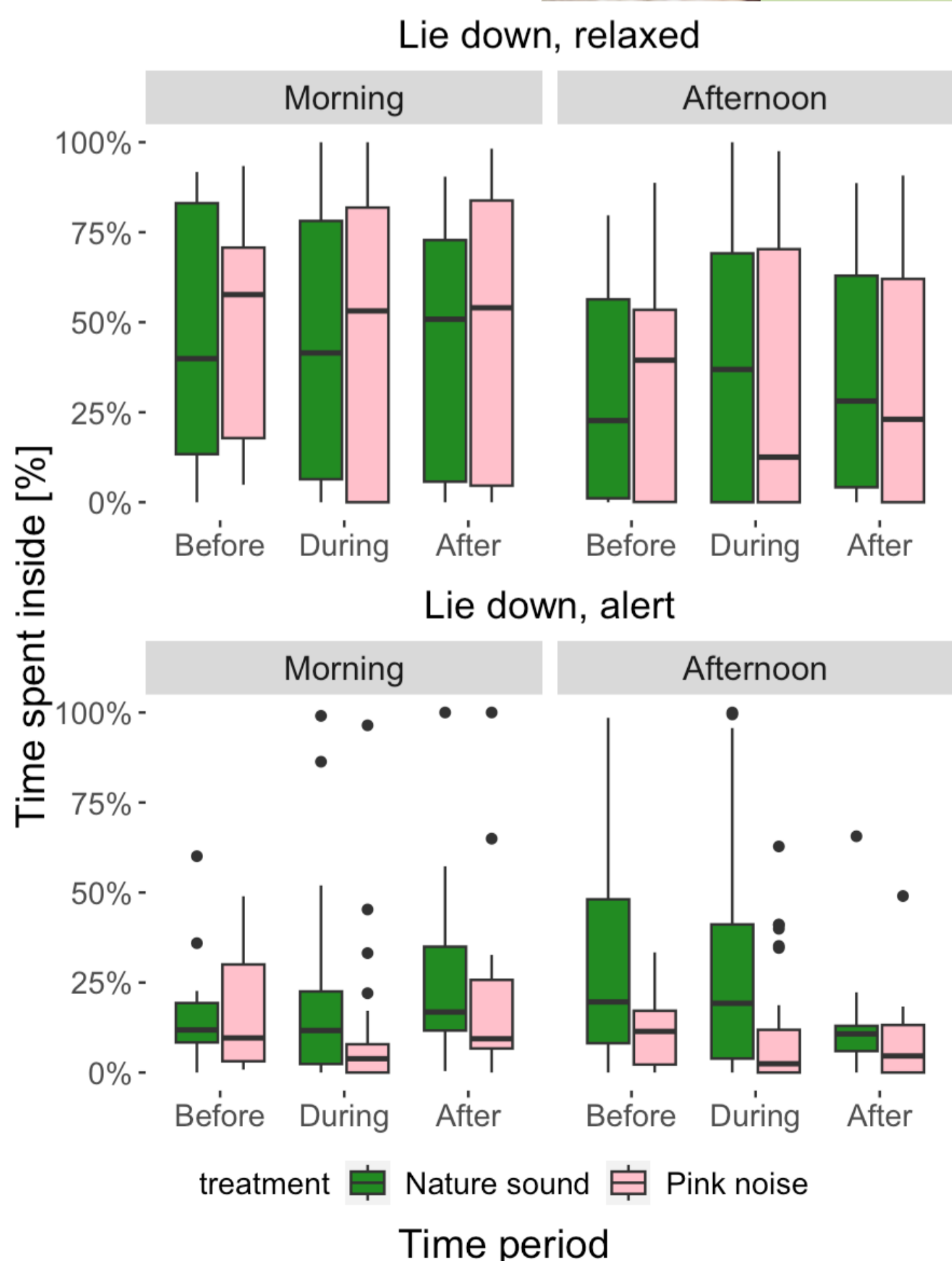
The aim of this project was to investigate if **sound enrichment can increase resting-related behaviours** in shelter dogs, thereby improving their welfare.

Methods

Shelter dogs (N = 28) were exposed to either pink noise or nature sound. Each dog was video recorded twice a day (15 min) for later video analysis.

Time period	Before	During			After
Weekday	Day 1 Monday	Day 2 Tuesday	Day 3 Wednesday	Day 4 Thursday	Day 5 Friday
Treatment	No treatment	Treatment between 09.00 to 17.00			No treatment

Results



Discussion

Dogs that was exposed to **nature sound spent significantly more time laying down, alert**, than dogs exposed to pink noise.

However, there was little effect of treatment in the morning, which might be due to the higher activity in the shelter at that time.

This study shows promising results that **sound enrichment has a positive impact on the welfare of dogs.**

