

# Fund Sought for Dog Experiments

Psychology

Psychologists at the animal laboratory of Columbia University have issued a challenge to dog lovers.

So many dog owners tell them proudly how intelligent and keen their dogs are and ask so many questions about dogs that have not yet been scientifically answered, that the psychologists have asked dog lovers to help them raise a \$100,000 fund for experimental work on dogs and also on cats and other higher animals. The fund is known as the Fellow Fund, after the German Shepherd dog recently tested by psychologists at Columbia University. Dr. C. J. Warden, who conducted the examination of Fellow, is chairman of the fund. and Dr. John B. Watson, exponent of behaviorist psychology, is treasurer. Fellow's portrait, by Spencer and Wyckoff, of Detroit, appears on our cover this week.

Much of what the average man "knows" about his own dog, and about dogs in general, is quite unknown to the animal psychologist, Dr. Warden points out. It is difficult for a scientist to enter a dog's world and find out exactly how much a dog depends on sight or smell or hearing in any situation. Because the work is slow and, therefore, expensive, a comprehensive study of the dog's psychology has never been completed.

Experiments so far made indicate that the average dog has far more faulty vision than most dog-lovers suppose, according to a survey of what is known about dog psychology made in the *Quarterly Journal of Biology* by Dr. Warden and Dr. L. H. Warner, his colleague.

Laboratory experiments in Russia and other countries have led most psychologists to believe that the dog has little or no ability to see colors. A puppy that seems to know red from green may be responding to a difference in the brightness of the two colored objects, or some other clue that his human friends overlook. A dog's vision for still objects appears to be decidedly inferior to that of a man, but he is keenly sensitive to moving objects, the evidence indicates.

A dog's sense of smell appears to be far superior to that of a man, the psychologists report in their survey. A German shepherd dog, for example, was able in every instance to pick out a small piece of pine wood that had been handled by her keeper, even when the piece of wood was placed

with as many as twenty pieces that he had never touched.

On the other hand, police dogs were tested in Germany by giving them the glove of a person and telling them to pick out the owner from a row of men. The dogs all failed on this test and on a number of other tests intended to prove their usefulness in police work. As a result of the tests the use of dogs in criminal detection was forbidden by the Prussian government. It is not clear, the Columbia psychologists point out, whether the dogs really "understood" what was wanted of them in these tests.

Whether dogs recognize words as a human being does, or whether they respond to sounds, or merely to tones and inflections of the voice, is not agreed upon by experimenters. In tests, Fellow responded to 400 words used in various commands given by his master, Jacob Herbert, of Detroit. In

some cases Mr. Herbert gave the commands from an adjoining room with the door closed, thus showing that the dog did not depend on watching his master's face or gestures for clues. Taking commands through a closed door was new to Fellow, and the voice was muffled, but he made a good record though not a perfect one.

One of the chief reasons why scientists disagree on the dog's capacities is that all sizes and sorts of dogs have been used in experiments, from highly bred bull terriers to an assortment of mongrels, the psychologists point out. A representative breed of dog should be settled upon for systematic study, they suggest.

According to Dr. Charles J. Stockard, of the Cornell University Medical School, the police dog is probably the most nearly "normal" of all common breeds.

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## In This Issue—

How *intelligent* is a dog? p. 12—When a star *explodes*, p. 13—*Icebergs* at home, p. 15—*Weather a week* ahead, p. 15—Birds best bears, p. 15—*Mummies* from the Arctic, p. 17—*Magnetic* surgery, p. 17—Vacations for animals, p. 17—*Motoring* on charcoal, p. 17—*Aeronautica nova*, p. 19—Rubber, "Made in Germany," p. 21—*Bios* is inosite, p. 21—*Bittersweet*, p. 21—An amendment to Genesis, p. 25.



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