

INHIBITORY CONTROL AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION PERFORMANCE IN POLICE DOGS

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COGNITION AND WORKING TRAITS

- Working dog test batteries mainly test personality traits such as shyness - boldness, trainability, activity, aggression and sociability (Wilsson and Sundgren 1998; Sinn et al. 2010; Duffy and Serpell 2012; Foyer et al. 2014)
- What about cognitive abilities?
- Dogs have stable individual differences in cognitive abilities (Corr 2010; Brucks et al. 2017; Griffin et al. 2015)
- Dogs with better impulse control seem to be better problem solvers (Muller et al 2016)



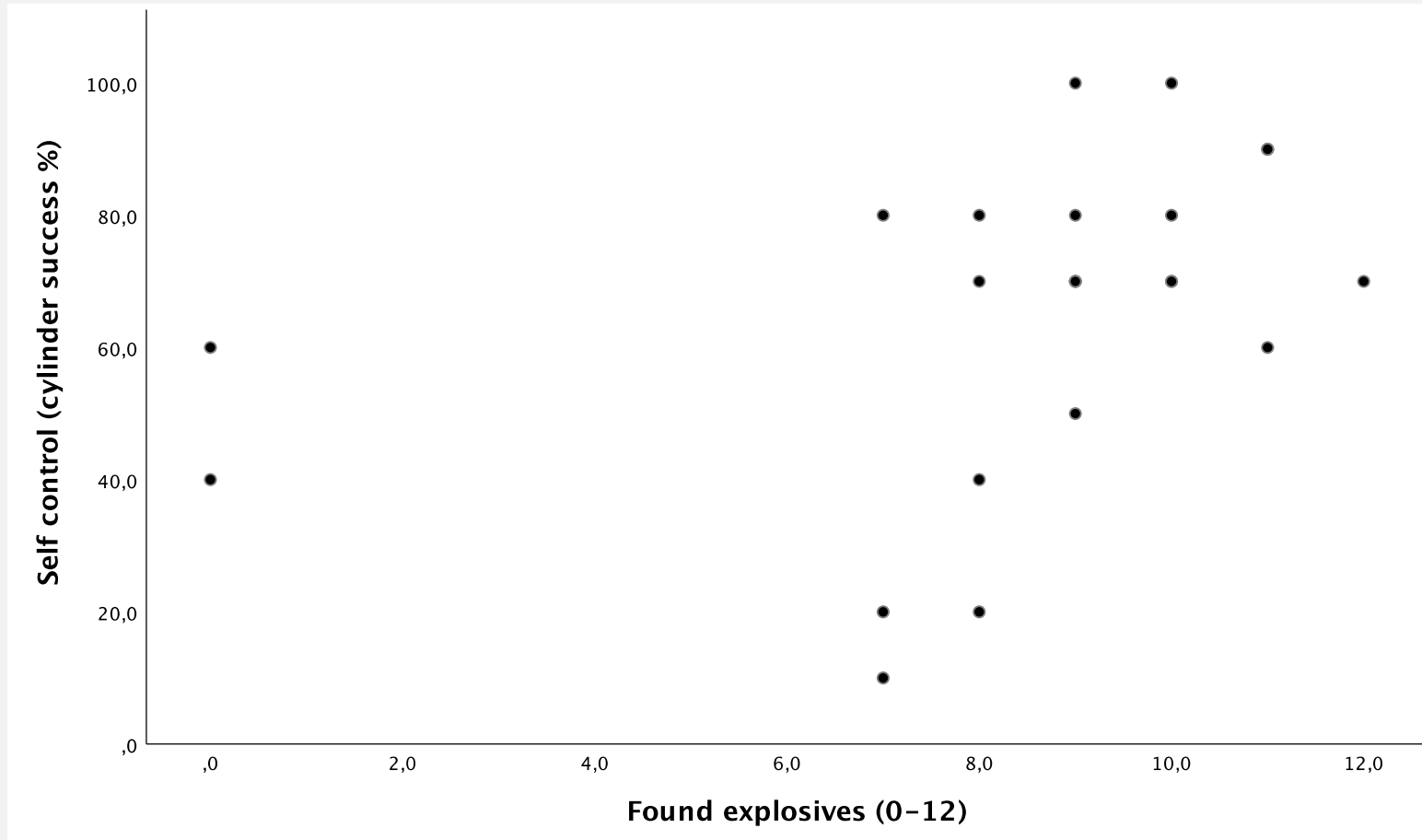
QUESTIONS & METHODS?

- Cognitive abilities and working success in explosive search in Finnish police dogs?

Police dogs (N=23), (11 malinois, 8 German shepherd, 3 Labrador, 1 English springer spaniel)

- Cognitive test battery (impulsivity, spatial problem solving, and problem solving strategy and persistency)
- Questionnaire
- Qualification test (12 explosives, two days)

Dogs with better self control in cylinder task performed better in explosive search



HOWEVER High impulsivity may be beneficial in some other working dog tasks – police patrol/protection work or other short duration work.

Spearman's correlation coefficient $r_s = 0.514$, $P = 0.012$, $N = 23$

Tiira et al submitted