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MONITORING OF DOGS BREEDS AND MONITORING OF OFF-LEASH DOG-PARKS IN THE MOKOTÓW DISTRICT IN WARSAW

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Abstract. The domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) is the most popular human companion, also in Poland. Among recognized by FCI dog breeds, there are those that are more popular. In order to meet the needs of owners and their dogs, dog-parks were created. Sometimes they are controversial. The aim of monitoring is to determine the population of dogs in the study area and to evaluate the dog-parks and their use by dog owners. 14 places were selected for monitoring in the Mokotów district: 6 dog-parks and 8 parks. The respondents to the survey were dog keepers and owners. A survey was conducted for dog owners in Warsaw and active monitoring of parks, green spaces and dog-park in the Mokotów district. The survey results showed that the most frequently owning type of dog is the Mongrel. The vast majority of respondents declare that they do not use dog-parks. The results of active monitoring of the dog population also showed that the most frequently owned type of dog is the Mongrel. From purebred dogs, sequentially: Yorkshire Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier, Labrador Retriever, next Golden Retriever. Parks for dogs in the Mokotów district are fenced or designated spaces, enriched with equipment that activates caregivers and their pets. 2 of the 6 dog-areas selected for observation have been permanently removed. Both facilities were located in a residential area. Dog-parks are most often used as places for free explorations of dogs, without leash. In most of the observations, no dog-owner activity was observed.

Key words: Poland, monitoring, domestic dog, breeds, dog-park.

INTRODUCTION

According to Statistica, in 2020 the population of domestic dogs in Poland was 7,8 million individuals (Sas 2021). Referring to the American Kennel Club 2020 ranking, the most popular breed of dog in the world is the Labrador retriever. The French Bulldog comes second, followed by the German Shepherd dog. Poland also created a ranking – where according to the number of searches of given breeds in the internet search engine, the winner was the Maltese followed by Shih-tzu, French bulldog, Amstaff, Pug, German Shepherd, Poodle, Border Collie, Golden Retriever and Labrador retriever (Piorun 2020; Reisen 2021). In Poland, a breeding review of the Polish Kennel Club (Związek Kynologiczny w Polsce) is also prepared, which is a statistical

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summary of the dogs bred during the year. According to this statistic data from 2021, the most frequently bred breed was the German Shorthair Shepherd belong to Group 1. Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs). In 2021, 709 litters of this breed were born. In the Group 2. Pinscher and Schnauzer – Molossoid and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs, the most litters were born in the Bernese Shepherd Dog breed – 181 litters. In the Group 3. Terriers, Jack Russell terrier – 422 litters, Group 6. Dachshunds, standard wirehaired Dachshund – 106 litters, Group 5. Spitz and primitive types, Pomeranian – 393 litters, Group 6. Scent hounds and related breeds, Polish Hound – 142 litters, Group 7. Pointing, Weimaraner shorthaired Pointer – 83 litters, Group 8. Retrievers – flushing dogs – water dogs, Labrador Retriever – 452 litters, Group 9. Companion and Toy Dog, French Bulldog – 479 litters, Group 10. Sighthounds, Whippet – 135 litters. Among the breeds not recognized by the FC, the Russian Color Bolognese – 46 litters (ZKWP 2022).

Dog parks are popular places for dogs and their owners, where you can train your dog, spend some time playing and doing activities that strengthen your relationship with your dog. It allows to interact freely with other dogs (Włodarczyk 2021). The first dog park in Poland was built in 2005 (Klima i Stasiak 2017). According to other sources, confined spaces are not perceived positively. The dog-park space is often too small, which makes it impossible to increase the communication distance between dogs. The area often prevents the animal from exploring, the smells are often too strong and disturbing, and the terrain is limited. The passivity of the owner in a conflict situation of his pet can also be a huge problem. Dog's subtle stress signals can go unnoticed and ignored (Kalińska 2021). The safety of a dog-park can be guaranteed by appropriate supervision starting with a proper design, approved by specialists in various branches of science. As well as defining specific rules for the operation of the dog-park, including rules for using and maintaining the park. The rules for using the park should be written down and placed in a visible place and enforced by selected people (Allen 2007). An important aspect is also the appropriate location of the dog-park. The distance from houses and blocks of flats should be considerable but allow for pedestrian access. It is also worth limiting the vicinity of wildlife (Holderness-Roddam 2020).

The aim of the study was divided into two main aspects: 1. Determining the population of dogs in the study area, taking into account the breed and size of the animals. 2. Evaluation of dog-parks and analysis of their use by dog owners and guardians.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research included:

1. Dog owners and guardians in Warsaw.
2. Parks, dog-parks and green spaces in the Mokotów district in Warsaw.

The survey

The survey was addressed to owners and guardians of dogs from all over Warsaw. It was shared on portals and groups associating dog guardians and owners for the period from April 24, 2022 to May 24, 2022. The questions concerned the basic personal questionnaire and the group of dogs owned. Additionally, questions about dog-parks. Based on the results of the survey, a specific area with the highest number of responses was selected (Mokotów district). Microsoft Excel was used to analyse and present the results.

Observations

Active monitoring was carried out in the Mokotów district. Figure 1 shows the places selected for observation with their detailed location in the Mokotów district along with description. There are designated monitoring areas where increased activity of dogs and their keepers is observed.

That is parks and green places of Warsaw, as well as dog-parks and playgrounds for dogs. The observation time for the parks was set at 60 minutes, while the dog-parks – 30 minutes. The observation schedule was designed in a way to avoid repetition of the observation data as much as possible. Also the rotation of hours and days was introduced, and the process of recording and memorizing the characteristic features of the dogs was introduced. During the observation, the names of the encountered dog breeds and their sizes were monitored and recorded. If it was impossible to recognize the breed of the dog, a short interview was conducted with the owner/guardian of the animal in order to avoid errors in the statistics. It also helped remember the animal and owner in a specific area. Monitoring of dog-parks was also based on identification of breeds and description of the size and the use of the area. A more detailed interview was also conducted at the dog-park area and possible inconvenience or reasons for the decommissioning of the area. SPSS Statistics Viewer 1998 was used to analyse and present the results. The description of the monitoring schedule is presented below in Table 1.

Table 1. Schedule of observation and places in the selected district

Name of dog-park (30 min)	Day	Time	Name of park or green place (60 min)	Day	Time
Ormiański square – dog-park	08.05.22	Sunday	Ormiański square	08.05.22	Sunday
	11.05.22	Sunday		11:00–11:30	11:00–12:00
	10.05.22	Tuesday		16:30–17:00	16:30–17:30
Kaspijska 5, old playing field – dog-park	11.05.22	Wednesday	Czerniakowskie lake	11.05.22	Wednesday
	15.05.22	Sunday		18:00–19:30	18:00–19:00
	15.05.22	Sunday		17:00–17:30	17:00–18:00
PSA dyba – dog-park	11.05.22	Wednesday	Dolinka Służewiecka Park	11.05.22	Wednesday
	08.05.22	Sunday		16:00–16:30	16:50–17:50
	10.05.22	Tuesday		13:20–14:20	12:10–13:10
Dolinka Służewiecka Park – dog-park	10.05.22	Tuesday	Antoni Słonimski square	10.05.22	Tuesday
	15.05.22	Sunday		19:10–19:40	17:45–18:45
	15.05.22	Sunday		19:30–20:00	18:10–19:10
Słonimski square – dog-park	08.05.22	Sunday	Bartłomiej Park	29.05.22	Sunday
	10.05.22	Tuesday		12:10–12:40	12:15–13:15
	15.05.22	Sunday		17:45–18:25	19:00–20:00
Bartłomiej Park – dog-park	29.05.22	Sunday	Królikarnia + Arkadia	22.05.22	Sunday
	22.05.22	Sunday		24.05.22	Tuesday
	24.05.22	Tuesday		16:15–16:45	16:15–17:15
–	25.05.22	Wednesday	Mokotów Park (Morskie oko i Promenada)	25.05.22	Wednesday
	29.05.22	Sunday		19:00–19:30	19:00–20:00
	29.05.22	Sunday		12:15–12:45	13:30–14:30
–	22.05.22	Sunday	–	22.05.22	Sunday
	24.05.22	Tuesday		17:30–18:30	17:30–18:30
	25.05.22	Wednesday		19:00–19:30	16:00–17:00
–	07.06.22	Tuesday	–	07.06.22	Tuesday
	05.06.22	Sunday		16:00–17:00	16:00–17:00
	12.06.22	Sunday		17:00–18:00	17:00–18:00
–	08.06.22	Wednesday	–	08.06.22	Wednesday
	07.06.22	Tuesday		17:20–18:20	17:20–18:20
	11.06.22	Sunday		18:15–19:15	18:15–19:15
–	05.06.22	Sunday	–	05.06.22	Sunday
	12.06.22	Sunday		18:15–19:15	18:15–19:15
	08.06.22	Wednesday		18:15–19:15	18:15–19:15

The Figure 1 below shows the places selected for observation with their detailed location in the Mokotów district along with a description.

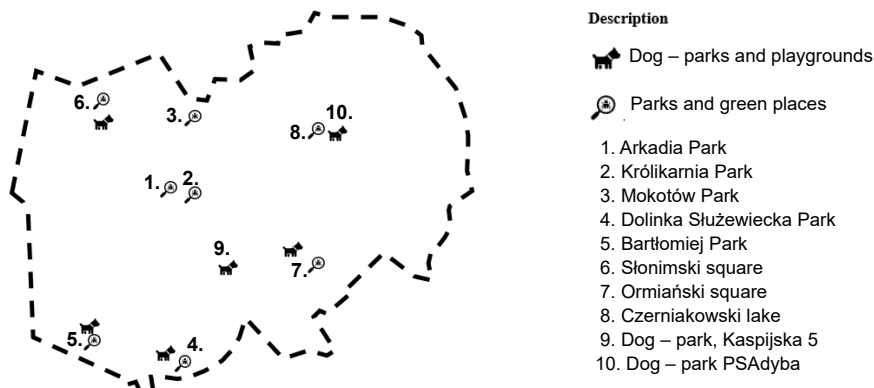


Fig. 1. Map of observation places in the Mokotów district (Warszawa city): parks, green spaces and dog-parks

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Questionnaire

118 people took part in the survey. The vast majority were women (93.2%), 6.8% men, The dominant age range was 26–40 years old (52.5%), then 18–25 years old (28%) and 41–65 years old (16.9%). 72.9% of respondents had higher education. Most responses were obtained from the district of Mokotów (16.1%).

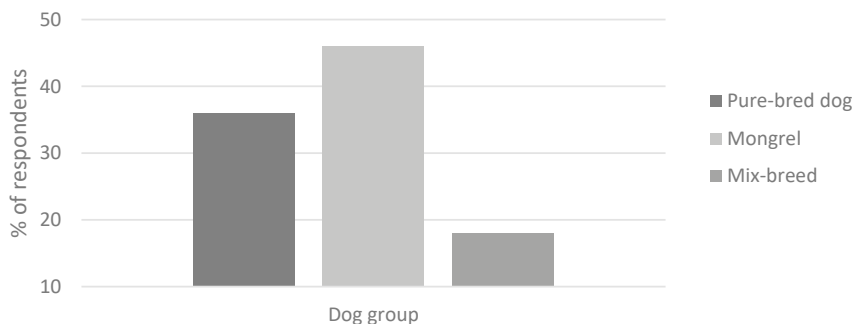


Fig. 2. Share (%) of individual groups of dogs kept in Warsaw

161 domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) were collected, of which 46% were Mongrels, 36% purebred dogs and 18% dogs of the breed type, also referred to as crossbreeds (Fig. 2).

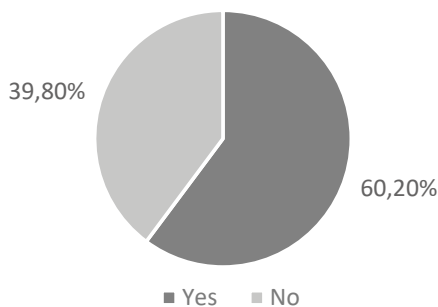


Fig. 3. Summary of answers to the question: Do you use dog-parks?

In the case of dog-parks, only 39.8% of respondents declared that they use dog-parks. The majority (60.2%) do not use such places (Fig. 3).

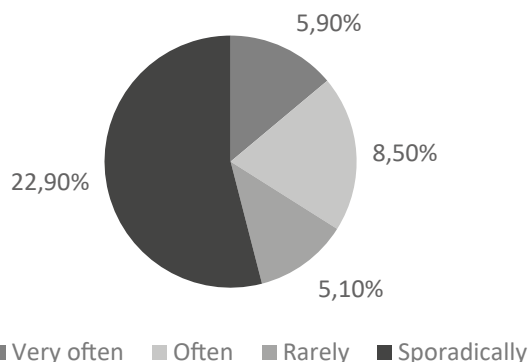


Fig. 4. Summary of answers to the question: How often do you use dog-parks?

People who use dog-parks declare that they use such places sporadically (22.9%), often (8.5%), very often (5.9%), rarely (5.1%) (Fig. 4).

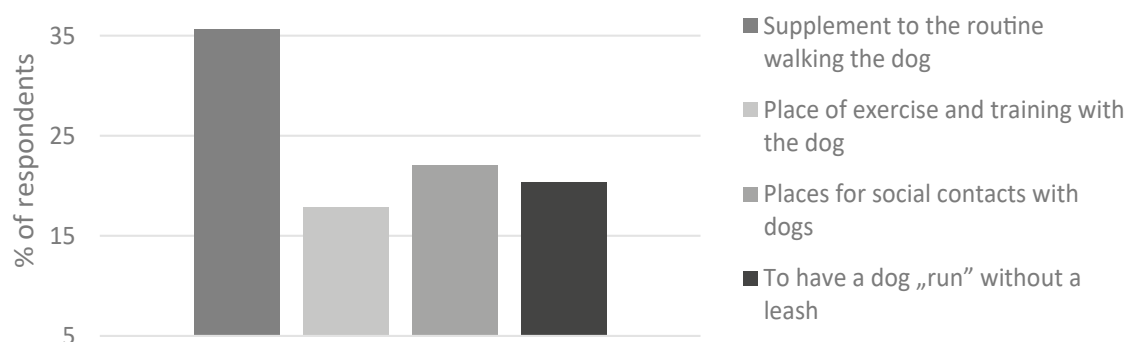


Fig. 5. Summary of answers to the question: How do you use dog-parks?

35.6% of respondents use the dog-park as a diversion or supplement to the routine of walking the dog. 22% as a place for social contacts with dogs, while some people declared that only when dogs know each other. 20.3% to have a dog „run” without a leash, 17.8% as a place of exercise and training with the dog (Fig. 5).

OBSERVATIONS OF DOGS

664 dogs were sighted in the Mokotów district. The most frequently observed dog was mongrel (35.8% of observations), next Yorkshire Terrier (3.9%), Jack Russel Terrier (3.7%), Labrador Retriever (3.3%), then Golden Retriever, dogs in the German Shepherd type and Maltese (2.7%), German Shepherd (2.6%), Chihuahua (2.4%), Border Collie (2.1%), French Bulldog (1.9%), Shih-tzu and Dachshund (1.8%), Beagle (1.6%), Cocker spaniel (1.3%), dog sine the Greyhound type, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Belgian Malinois Shepherd (1.0%).

Below is a Figure 6. With ranking of the observed breeds and dogs by breed type in the Mokotów district.

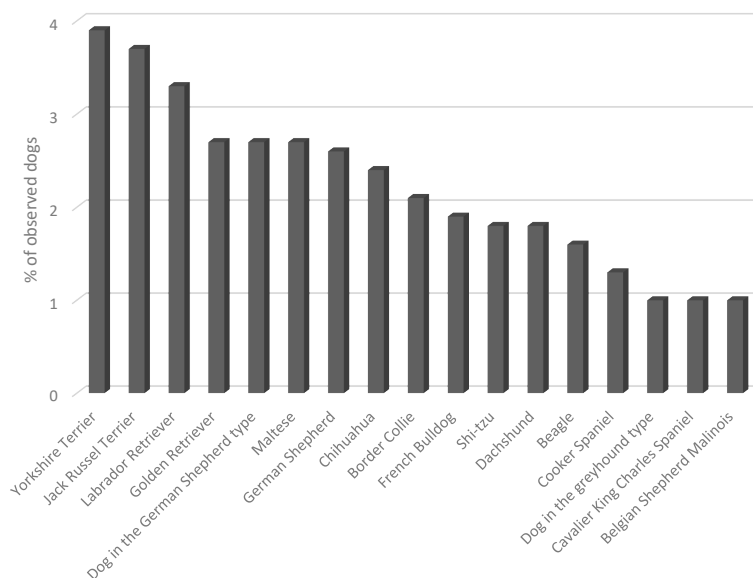


Fig. 6. Ranking of the observed breeds and dogs by breed type in the Mokotów district.

The rest of the observations include frequency on the level of <1%. Below is a detailed list (Table 2–4) of observations broken down by animal size.

Table 2. Observations of large dogs in the area of Mokotów, frequency on the level of <1%

Large breeds	Number of observations	Large breeds	Number of observations
Airedale Terrier	3	Scottish Shepherd Dog (long-haired)	1
Akita Inu	2	Central-Asian Shepherd	1
Alaskan Malamute	4	Pittbul	5
Amstaff	6	Poiner	1
Bernese Mountain dog	1	Porcelaine	1
Boxer	1	Poodle	1
Border Collie	14	Nova Scotia Duck-Tolling Retriever	3
Cane Corso	3	Rhodesian Ridgeback	1
Polish Chart	3	Samoyed	1
Russian Chart	1	Siberian Husky	5
Chow-Chow	3	English Setter	3
Black Russian Terrier	2	Springel Spaniel	1
Dalmatian	3	Dog in the Greyhound type	5
Flat Coated Retriever	1	Dog in the Golden Retriever type	1
Golden Retriever	18	Dog in the Labrador Retriever type	2
Mongrel	45	Dog in the Leonberger type	1
Labradoodle	1	Dog in the German Shepherd type	18
Labrador Retriever	22	Dog in the Sebirian Husky type	2
Leonberger	1	Dog in the wolfdog type	1
Tibetan Mastife	1	German Pointer	4
Polish hound	2	Weimar Pointer	6
Australian Shepherd Dog	3	Hungarian Pointer	2
Belgian Shepherd Dog Malinois	7	Italian Pointer	1
German Shepherd	17		
Total amount	231		

Table 3. Observations of small dogs in the area of Mokotów

Small breeds	Number of observations	Small breeds	Number of observations
Bichon Frise	2	Papillon	1
Bolognese	1	Pekingese	2
English Bulldog	2	Miniature Pinscher	5
French Bulldog	13	Pomeranian	6
Cavalier king charles spaniel	2	Miniature Poodle	3
Italian Greyhound	6	Shih-tzu	12
Chihuahua	16	Miniature Schnauzer	3
Coton de Tuléar	1	Scottish terrier	2
Hovanese	4	Dog in the Maltese type	1
Jack Russell Terrier	25	Dog in the Terrier type	1
Dachshund	12	Dog in the Welsh Corgi Pembroke type	1
Mongrel	106	Dog in the Yorkshire Terrier type	3
Maltese	18	Welsh Corgi Pembroke	4
Pug	5	West Highland White Terrier	4
Shetland sheep dog	3	Yorkshire Terrier	26
Total amount	290		

Table 4. Observations of medium dogs in the area of Mokotów

Medium breeds	Number of observations
Basset	1
Beagle	11
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	5
Whippet	6
Cocker Spaniel	11
American Cocker Spaniel	1
Wire-haired Fox-Terrier	2
Mongrel	87
Lagotto	1
Mexican Naked Dog	1
Hunting German Terrier	1
Hunting Polish Spaniel	3
Bavarian bloodhound	4
Springel Spaniel	4
Schnauzer Medium	1
Dog in the Basenji type	1
Dog in the Greyhound type	2
Dog in the Cocker Spaniel type	1
Total amount	143

Observation of off-leash dog-parks

The Table 5 describes the dog-parks selected for monitoring. The status for 2021 was described in the document („Zestawienie wybiegów i parków dla psów (istniejących, w trakcie realizacji) stan na wrzesień 2021 r.”). The status for 2022 was verified on the basis of the monitoring carried out.

Table 5. List of dog-parks with descriptions – The status for September 2021 and the current condition

Dog-park place	The status for September 2021 according to the information	The status for 2022 (nowadays)
Bartłomiej Park	Area – 100 m ²	None – liquidated, probable cause, according to interview conducted: noise, proximity to the cinema and apartment blocks
Ślonimski square	Area – 100 m ²	None – liquidated, probable cause, according to interview conducted: noise, poor workmanship (surface, low fence), proximity to apartment blocks
Ormiański square	Area 250 m ² Mini-obstacle course, slalom posts, landing, obstacles of various heights for jumping, benches in the shade	No change. Comments: Low fence, playgrounds, football and basketball fields around – noise (Fig. 7, 8).
Kaspijska 5 – dog-park	Agility equipment, with the allocation of running parts, with a division for small and larger dogs	No change. Comments: The place around the blocks, conflict with the inhabitants, rules of thumb (Fig. 9–13)
Dolinka Służewiecka Park	Area 750 m ² Balance beam, footbridge, skipping rings, competition path	No change. Comments: The area is overgrown with tall grass, unfenced (Fig. 14–21)
PSA dyba Park	Obstacle course, wooden pole slalom, tunnel, footbridge	No changes. Notes: Low hedge, a small amount of enrichment (Fig. 22–24)



Fig. 7. Ormiański square – dog-park – information for dog owners, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 8. Ormiański square – dog-park, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 9. Kaspijska 5 – dog-park, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 10. Kaspijska 5 – dog-park, informations for dog owners, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 11. Kaspijska 5 – dog-park, informations for dog owners, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 12. Kaspijska 5 – dog-park, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 13. Kaspijska 5 – dog-park, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 14. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park map, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 15. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – informations for dog owners author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 16. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – dog toilet, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 17. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – skipping rings and competition path, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 18. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – skipping rings and competition path, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 19. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – skipping rings and competition path, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 20. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – Balance beam, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 21. Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park – skipping rings and competition path, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 22. PSADyba – dog-park – sign for users, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 23. PSAdyba – dog-park, author: Agata Lewandowska



Fig. 24. PSADyba – dog-park – informations for dog owners, author: Agata Lewandowska

Below is a Table 6. With the results of observations of the use of dog-parks broken down by monitoring places.

Table 6. Observations results of the use of dog-parks and playgrounds

Place	Number of observation	Description
PSAadyba – dog-park	1	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		No activity with owner
	2	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		Retrieving the ball – activity with owner
	3	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		Social contact and playing with other dogs
	4	Basic training
		Retrieving the ball – activity with owner
		No observation
Ormiański square – dog-park	1	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		Playing frisbee
	2	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
	3	No activity with owner
	4	No observation
	Kaspijska 5 – dog-park	1
Exploring the dog-park		
Social meeting for owners		
Social contact and playing with other dogs		
2		Grooming – the use of the left hair by the Corvus corone was observed
		Running loose without a leash
3		Exploring the dog-park
		Grooming – combing
		Social contact and playing with other dogs
4		No activity with owner
	Running loose without a leash	
	Exploring the dog-park	
	Social meeting for owners	
	Social contact and playing with other dogs	
5	Retrieving the ball – activity with owner	
	Running loose without a leash	
	Exploring the dog-park	
	Social contact and playing with other dogs	
	Social meeting for owners	
		Retrieving the ball – activity with owner
		Playing with the cutter

Place	Number of observation	Description
Kaspijska 5 – dog-park	6	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		No activity with owner
	7	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		No activity with owner
		Using of playground elements – agility training
	8	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
		Retrieving the ball – activity with owner
	9	Running loose without a leash
		Exploring the dog-park
Playing with element of the playground – the tire		
No activity with owner		
No activity with owner		
10	Running loose without a leash	
	Exploring the dog-park	
	Basic training	
	Social contact and playing with other dogs	
	Retrieving the ball – activity with owner	
Dolinka Służewiecka – dog-park	1	No observations

A summary of the use of the playgrounds is provided below on Fig. 25.

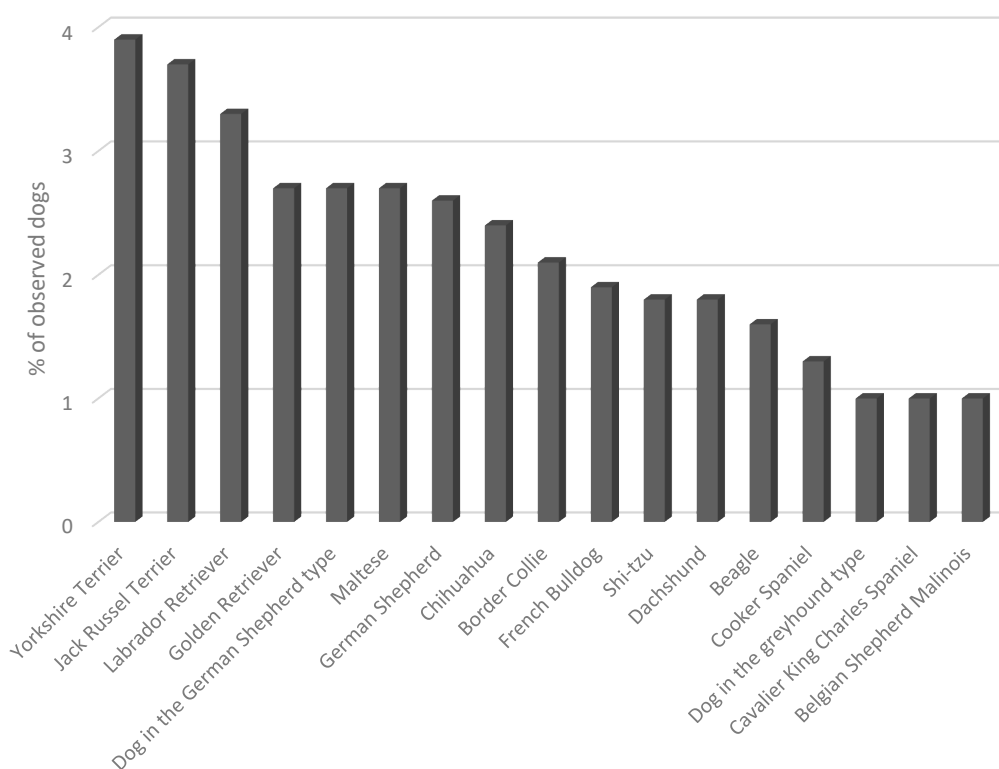


Fig. 25. Use of dog-parks and playgrounds

The most common use of the dog-park was as a square where the owner allow their dogs to explore freely, without a leash (79%). In most cases, no activity of the guardian with the dog was observed (as much as 58%). In 42% of observations, activity in the form of playing with a dog cutter, retrieving a ball or a Frisbee was noted. 31.5% of the observations concerned social contact with other dogs. It was also observed that the playground was a kind of a place for owners to social meetings, establish contact and place to talk (21%). 21% objects of observations were empty at the time of observation. 10.5% of observations are situations of using elements of the dog-park, such as a tire or agility track, care treatments (most often combing – hair care) (10.5%) and training with an owner (also 10.5%). Low activity of owners with dogs was noticed, similar conclusions were found in several other studies where dog-parks were observed (Lee et al. 2009; Evenson et al. 2016).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the survey analysis, it should be stated that:

1. The majority of dogs in Warsaw and the Mokotów district are non-purebred dogs (Mongrels).
2. Among purebred dogs, the group of terriers and a group of retrievers dominate (Yorkshire Terrier, Jack Russel Terrier, Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever).
3. Most dog owners do not use dog runs.
4. It has been noticed that the majority of owners use the dog-park as a supplement to the routine of walking the dog.
5. According to the interview, the most common reason for the liquidation of dog-parks is inadequate location, near apartment blocks and the noise emitted.
6. The most frequently visited dog-park is the square at Kaspijska 5. The least frequented place is the dog-park Dolinka Służewiecka – the problem cause may be the lack of a fence.
7. During the observation of the dog-parks, the interaction dog with its owner was rarely observed, the most common was the free exploration of the dog-park by the dog.

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MONITORING RAS PSÓW ORAZ MONITORING PSICH WYBIEGÓW NA TERENIE DZIELNICY MOKOTÓW W WARSZAWIE

Streszczenie. Pies domowy jest najczęściej spotykanym towarzyszem człowieka, również w Polsce. Wśród uznanych ras psów da się wyróżnić takie, które są bardziej popularne i częściej spotykane. W ramach zaspokojenia potrzeb opiekunów i ich psów powstały tzw. psie wybiegi. Niekiedy są przedmiotem kontrowersji. Celem monitoringu jest określenie populacji psów na badanym terenie oraz ocena psich wybiegów i ich wykorzystania przez opiekunów psów. Do przeprowadzenia monitoringu wybrano 14 miejsc na terenie dzielnicy Mokotów: 6 psich wybiegów oraz 8 parków. Respondentami ankiety byli opiekunowie i właściciele psów. Przeprowadzono badanie ankietowe skierowane do właścicieli psów na terenie Warszawy oraz czynny monitoring parków, miejsc zielonych i psich wybiegów na terenie dzielnicy Mokotów. Badanie ankietowe wykazało, że najczęściej utrzymywanym typem psa jest kundel. Zdecydowana większość respondentów deklaruje, że nie korzysta z psich wybiegów. Wyniki aktywnego monitoringu populacji psów również wykazały, że najczęściej utrzymywanym typem psa jest kundel. Kolejno rasy: yorkshire terier, jack russel terier, labrador retriever, następnie golden retriever. Parki dla psów w dzielnicy Mokotów to przestrzenie ogrodzone lub wyznaczone, wzbogacone o sprzęt aktywizujący opiekunów i ich pupili. 2 z 6 wybranych do obserwacji wybiegów zostały trwale usunięte. Oba obiekty znajdowały się na osiedlu mieszkalnym. Psie wybiegi natomiast najczęściej wykorzystywane są jako miejsca swobodnej eksploracji psów, bez smyczy. W większości obserwacji nie obserwowano aktywności opiekuna z psem.

Słowa kluczowe: monitoring, pies domowy, rasy, wybieg.