



Maximum price paid in Bush dogs (*Speothos venaticus*)



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Background

Preference and motivation tests can help facilitate animals in captivity to express different priorities. The maximum price paid test is a motivation test that measures how much animals are willing to work to gain access to a resource. In this study, the preference and motivation of bush dogs were assessed. The bush dog is a small and rather unknown neo-tropical canid.

Aim

The aim was to assess the maximum price paid for a preferred food type in a group of 15 bush dogs kept at Kolmården Wildlife Park.

Conclusion

The bush dogs preferred meat and fish over vegetables and fruit. The highest price that the bush dogs paid for meat was 11 kg. Further studies assessing how much bush dogs value other resources e.g. swimming water are desirable.

Material and methods

- Food preference test

Four different food items (meat, fish, vegetables and fruit) were presented to test which food item the bush dogs preferred i.e. consumed first.

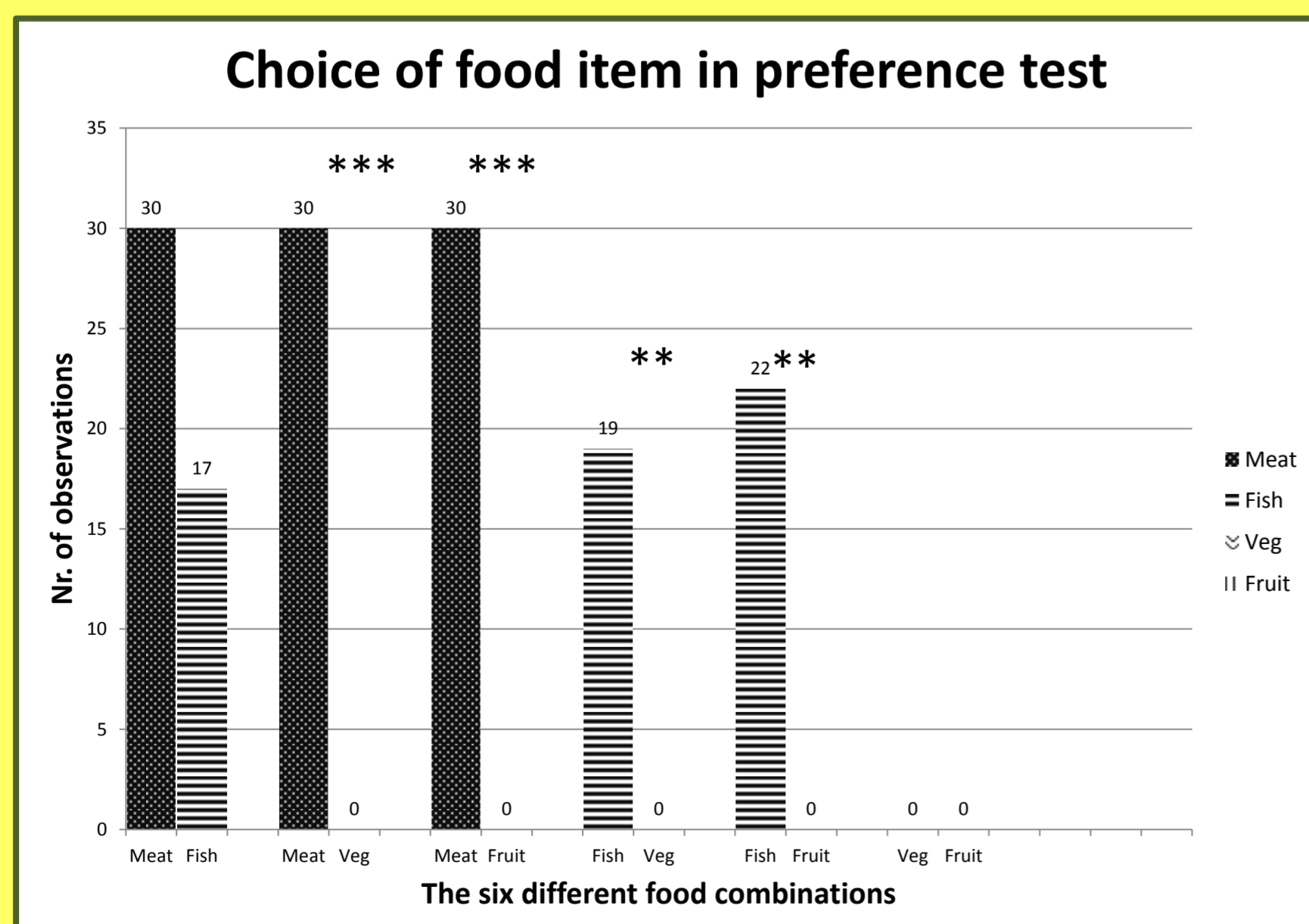


- Maximum price paid test

A lift-door experiment measured how much the bush dogs were able to lift to get access to meat.



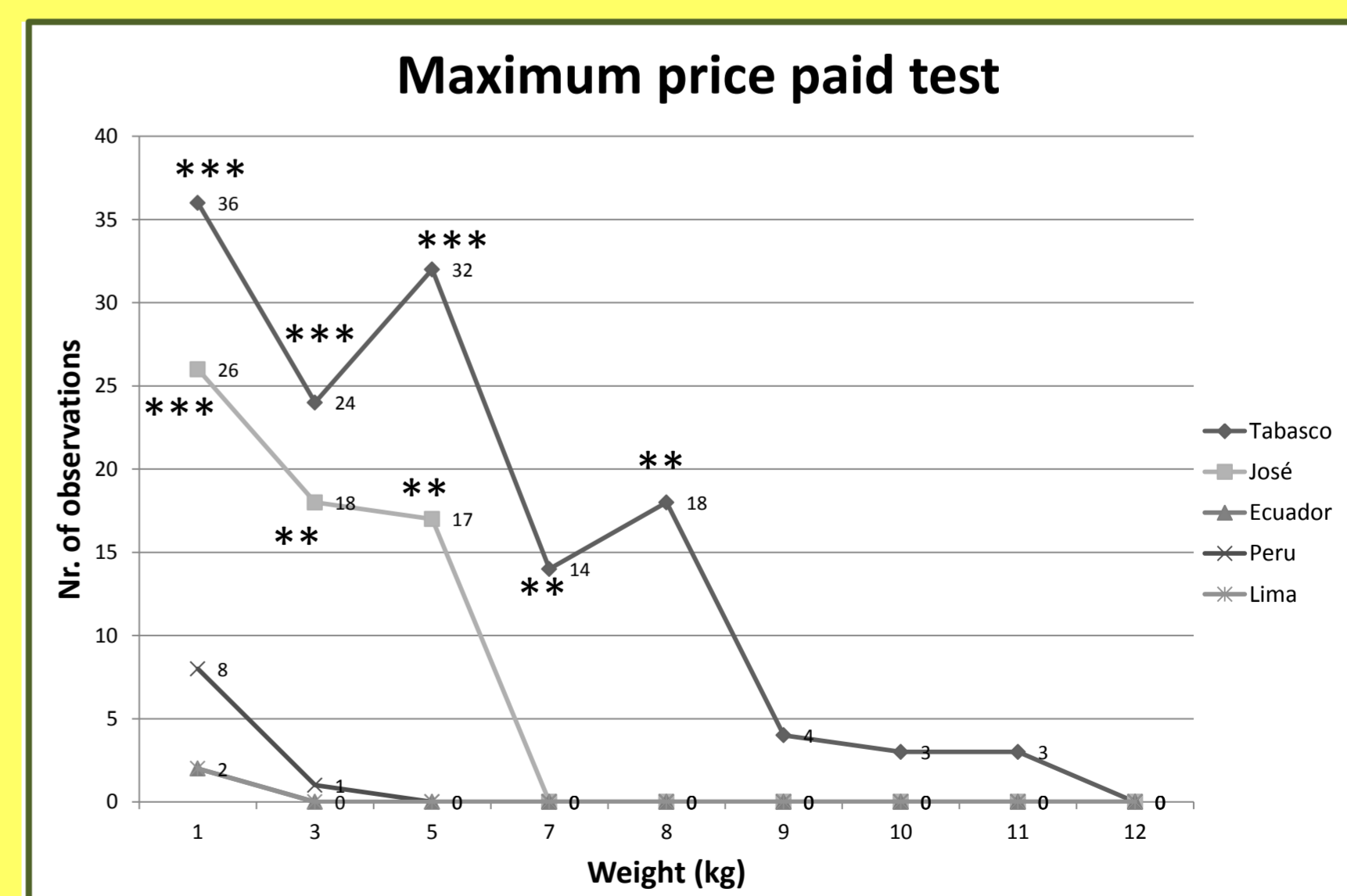
- The bush dogs preferred meat and fish over vegetables and fruit.



Chi square test df 1
* p = 0.05-0.1 ** p = 0.01-0.001 *** p < 0.001

Results

- Five individuals were willing to pay a price to get access to meat. The highest price paid was 11 kg.



Chi square test df 1
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Take a leaflet!

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