In most shelters across the United States, the majority of dogs are mixed breeds of unknown parentage. Nevertheless, it is common practice for staff to guess a dog’s breed based on appearance. This “best guess” is used to identify the dog, although the actual pedigree is unknown. The ramifications of this can influence the adoption of a dog, elicit behavioral expectations on the part of the new owner, and appreciation of dogs and will benefit both dogs and owners alike. This new approach will enhance understanding and appreciation of dogs and will benefit both dogs and owners alike.

**Key words:** dog; breed identification; personality; shelter

## References


## HORSE PERSONALITY PROFILES AND PERFORMANCE

Horses play a significant role in animal assisted therapy, they are trained and employed by the police and military, and used in sports (Potter et al., 1994; Anderson et al., 1999). In all these situations horses’ suitability and performance are fundamental and behavioral or personality traits may determine their success (Visser et al., 2001; Visser et al., 2002). Horses in therapy are required to be placid and calm, friendly and approachable, which may not be desirable for horses in sports (Worth-Estes, 1952; Hutson and Haskell, 1997; Visser et al., 2003; Buckley et al., 2004). We report on the personality

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**THE AMERICAN SHELTER DOG: IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS BY PERSONALITY**

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**HORSE PERSONALITY PROFILES AND PERFORMANCE**

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