**COVER LETTER**

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Title of Manuscript:

A pilot study on behavioural responses of shelter dogs to olfactory enrichment

In: Veterinary Science Research

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Dear Editorial Office,

On behalf of my co-authors, I am submitting the enclosed manuscript for possible publication in Veterinary Science Research.

We are convinced that the topic of our research article would perfectly fit in this Journal.   
The influence of essential oils (EOs) on emotions has been widely described among humans and animals. Several studies have investigated the effects and the actions of EOs on behaviour, mood and perception. In this study, shelter dogs (n=23) were exposed to olfactory stimulation through diffusion of 9 anxiolytic essential oils in one blend (olfactory enrichment) for 8 weeks in order to check long-term effects on behaviour. First, dog’s postures have been evaluated in both groups before and after exposure. Secondly, in order to collect the preliminary results on the distance necessary to obtain an effect of EOs, dogs were divided in 2 groups according to the distance from the diffuser.

Our results indicate that olfactory enrichment with *this blend of EOs* is related to less time spent by dogs in high posture. More research is needed to investigate a potential gradual effect of distance and concentration of EOs on dog’s welfare.

I declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publications elsewhere.

I guarantee that I have checked that no intentional or unintentional plagiarism has occurred in the present manuscript and all original references have been read, studied and cited.

I confirm that all figures, tables or schemes are original and are created by authors of this manuscript unless otherwise stated.

I attest to the fact that all authors listed on the title page have read the manuscript, attest to the validity and legitimacy of the data and its interpretations and agree to its submission to Veterinary Science Research.

I confirm that instruction for authors of this journal has been read carefully and all points are complied for the whole manuscript.

There is no conflict of interest associated to this article.

As corresponding author, I confirm that the manuscript has been read and approved for submission by all the named authors.

Best regards,

Dr. Anouck Haverbeke

Signature



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